## **Cure the HVAC Equipment Failure Epidemic** with Simple Air Upgrades

David Richardson National Comfort Institute, Inc davidr@ncihvac.com

Content and illustrations © NCI, Inc. 2023







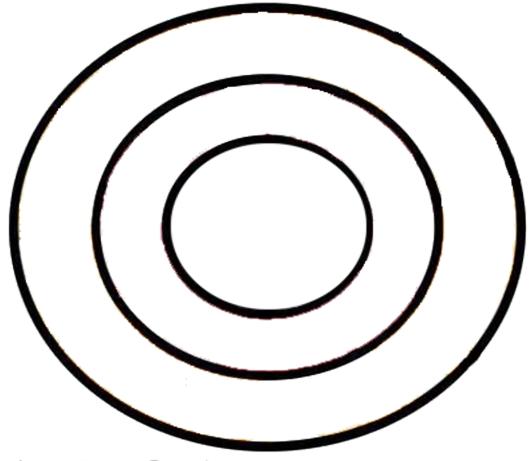
Working hard for something we don't care about is called stress.

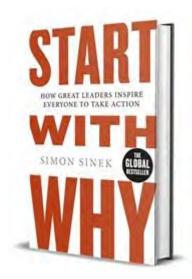
Working hard for something we **love** is called **passion**.

- Simon Sinek



# GOLDEN CIRCLE



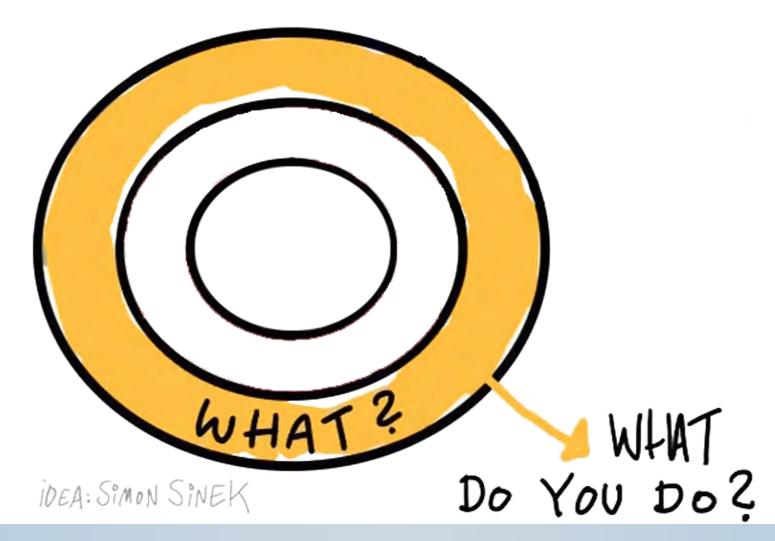


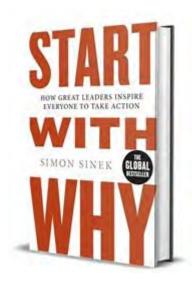








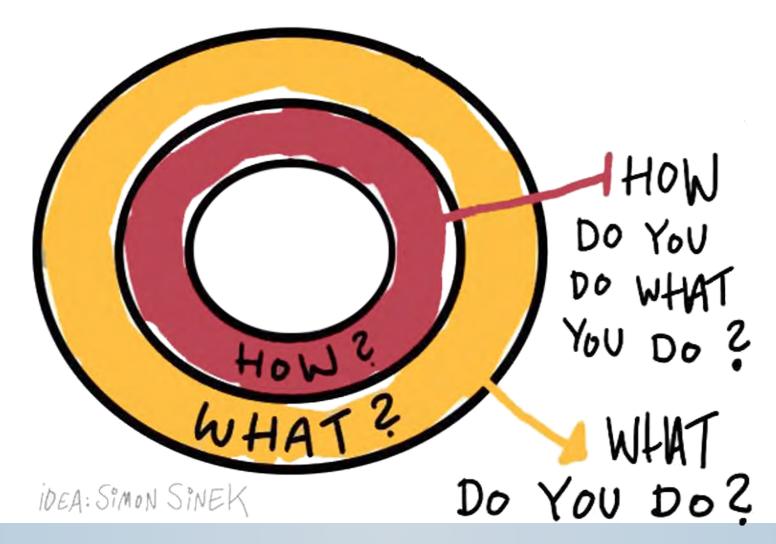


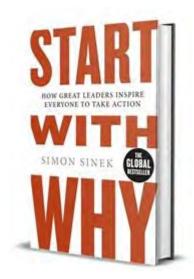






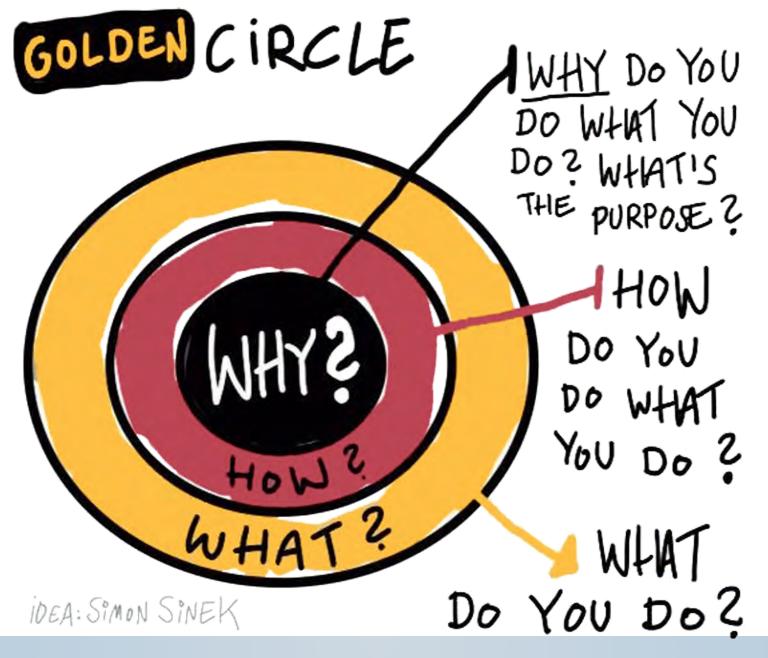
# GOLDEN CIRCLE

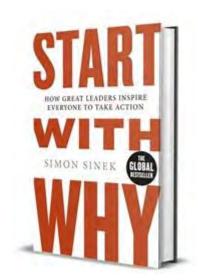
















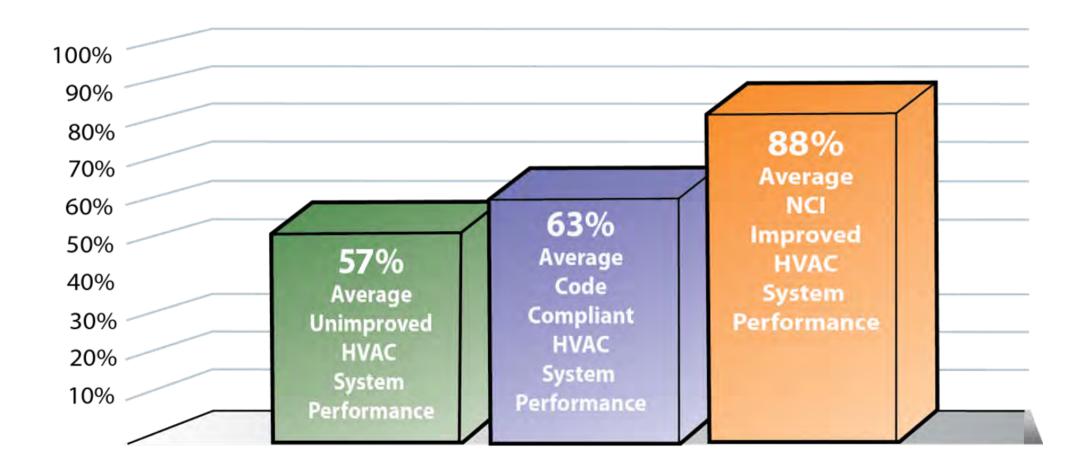
#### **Preview**

- The State of the Typical HVAC System
- The Air Upgrade Approach
- How to Discover Sick HVAC Systems
- Offering the Cure
- Review and Next Steps





## The State of the Typical HVAC System







## Our Industry Lost Focus on What's Important









**Safety** 

Health

**Comfort** 

**Efficiency** 

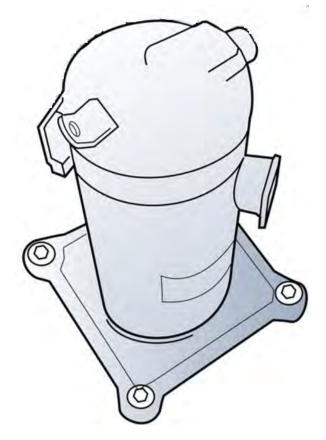
The results are sick HVAC systems





## Symptoms of Sick HVAC Systems

Hot and cold rooms Excessive utility costs Poor IAQ Uncontrollable humidity Compressor floodback Cracked heat exchangers ECM hunting and failure Furnaces cycling on primary limit Condensate drainage issues Erratic TXV operation Constant equipment problems



**Compressor Failure** 

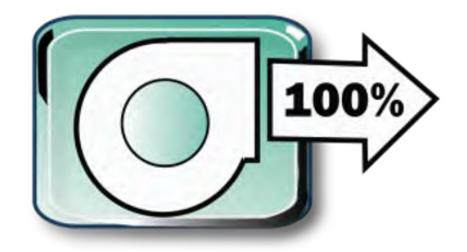




## Our Industry Needs Duct Doctors and Thermal Therapists



## Air Upgrade Approach



Air Upgrades focus on improving static pressure and airflow.

They are pre-packaged duct repairs priced with flat rate.

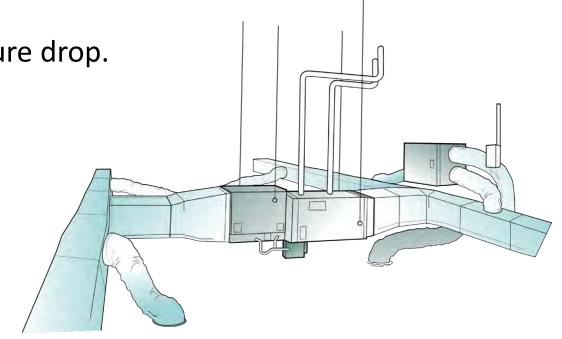




#### **Typical Air Upgrade Features**

#### **Equipment Improvements:**

- Rework filter system to reduce filter pressure drop.
- Improve duct fittings at the equipment.
- Provide basic system cleaning.
- Test, adjust, and set fan speed.
- Readjust refrigerant charge.
- **Test out** static pressures and fan airflow.



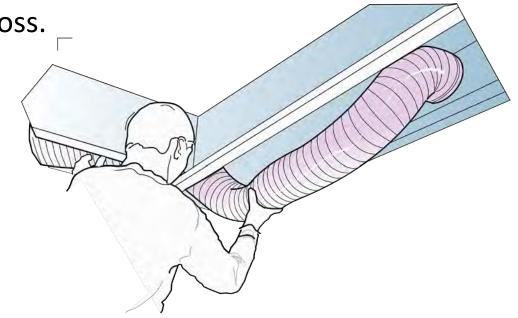




#### **Typical Air Upgrade Features**

#### **Duct System Improvements:**

- Add one oversized return duct and grille into a large open area.
- Replace 3 or so 6" supply ducts with 8" ducts and balancing dampers.
- Seal accessible duct leakage to reduce airflow loss.
- Add strapping to support the duct system.
- Replace restrictive duct fittings.
- Upgrade grilles and registers.







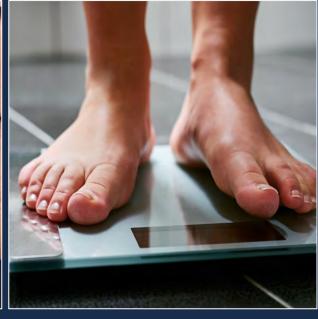
## Four Vital Signs

### **Your Doctor Uses as Baseline Measurements**









Blood Pressure
90/60 to 120/80 mm Hg

Pulse
60 to 100 beats per minute

Temperature 97.8° F to 99.1° F

**Weight**Depends on sex and height

Just because you can measure everything doesn't mean that you should.

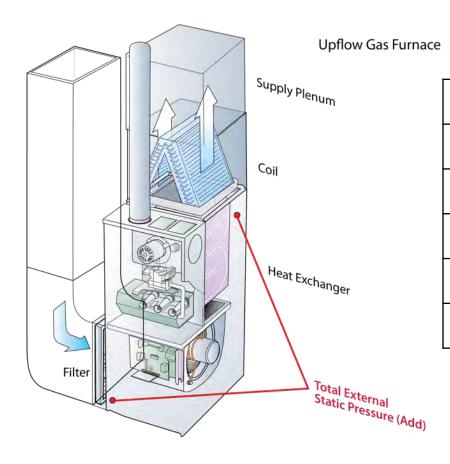
W. Edwards Deming





#### **Measure Total External Static Pressure**

Total
External
Static
Pressure

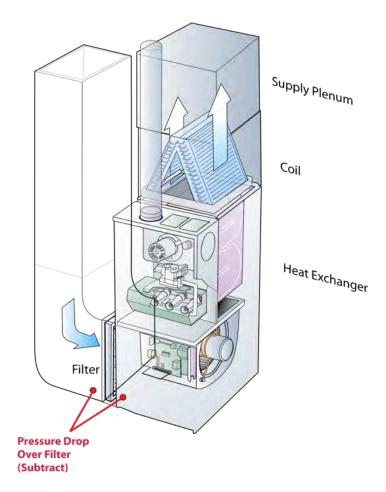


Total External Static Pressure			
<b>Entering Pressure</b>	0.40		
<b>Exiting Pressure</b>	0.50		
<b>Total External Static Pressure</b>	0.90		
Rated Total External Static Pressure	0.50		
Percent of Rated	180%		





Filter Pressure Drop

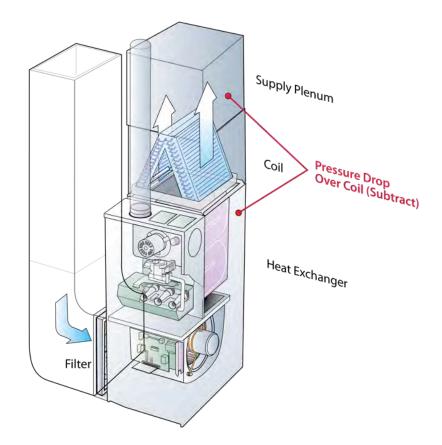


Filter Pressure Drop			
Entering Pressure	0.23		
Exiting Pressure	0.40		
Pressure Drop	0.17		
Pressure Budget	0.10		
Percent of Budget	170%		





Coil Pressure Drop

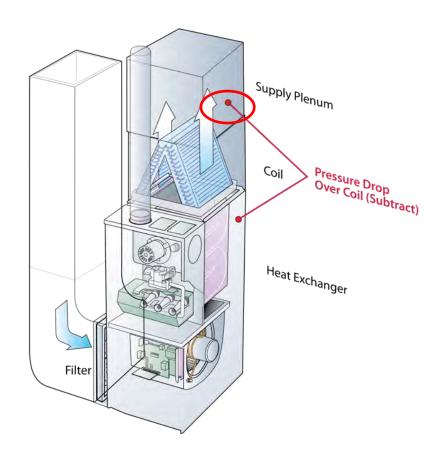


Coil Pressure Drop			
<b>Entering Pressure</b>	0.50		
<b>Exiting Pressure</b>	0.20		
Pressure Drop	0.30		
Pressure Budget	0.20		
Percent of Budget	150%		





Supply
Duct
Pressure

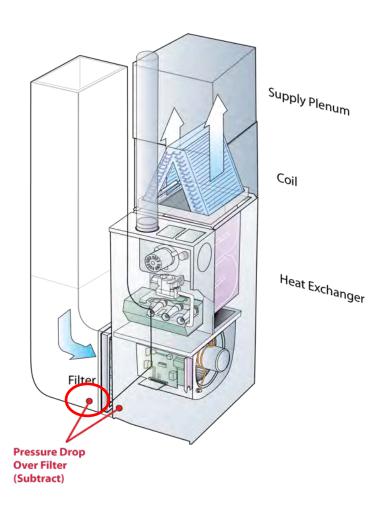


Supply Duct Pressure				
Supply Duct Pressure 0.20				
Pressure Budget	0.10			
Percent of Budget	200%			





Return
Duct
Pressure



Return Duct Pressure		
<b>Return Duct Pressure</b>	0.23	
Pressure Budget	0.10	
Percent of Budget	230%	





### **Measure Fan Airflow**

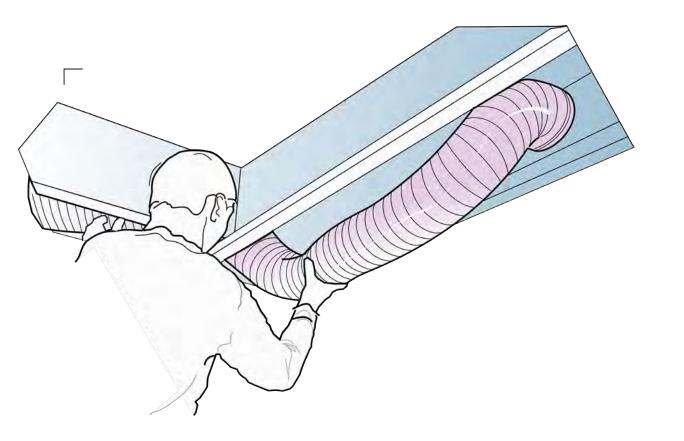


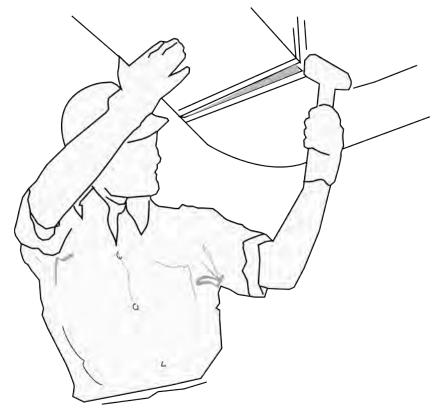
Fan Airflow			
Required Fan Airflow	1200 cfm		
Actual Fan Airflow	843 cfm		
Percent of Required	70%		





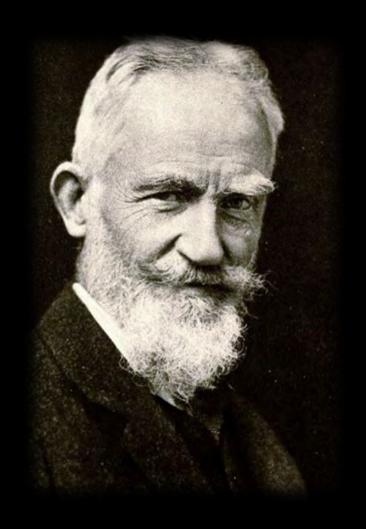
# The cure focuses on the areas where measurements are farthest from manufacturer recommendations











"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."

**George Bernard Shaw** 

#### **Discussing Static Pressure Readings**

#### **Static pressure (S.P.)**

The normal force per unit are a small body immersed in it if the Practically, it is the normal force and a duct through which fluid flows stationary tube at a point when tube, cancel.

exerted by a moving fluid on re carried along with the fluid. area at a small hole in the wall of eter) or on the surface of a ances, caused by inserting the





WO



#### **Discussing Static Pressure Readings**

Use every-day words and comparisons to help customers understand.

#### **Static Pressure/Blood Pressure Table**

	Hypotension (Low)	Normal	Pre- Hypertension	Hypertension (HBP) Stage 1	Hypertension (HBP) Stage 2	Hypertension (HBP) Stage 3
Blood Pressure	90/60	120/80	121/81 to 139/89	140/90 to 159/99	160/100 to 179/109	Exceeds 180/110 Emergency Care Needed!
pa.	.23 or less	.30	.31 to .35	.36 to .40	.41 to .45	.46 or above
Equipment Rated Static Pressure	.38 or less	.50	.51 to .58	.59 to .66	.67 to .74	.75 or above
Equi Star	.60 or less	.80	.81 to .93	.94 to 1.05	1.06 to 1.19	1.20 or above

**Note:** The above table is a combination of the categories suggested by the American Heart Association and NCI's Total External Static Pressure (TESP) Budgets. The table helps visualize the relationship between the equipment's TESP measurement and the Blood Pressure of a normal human being.



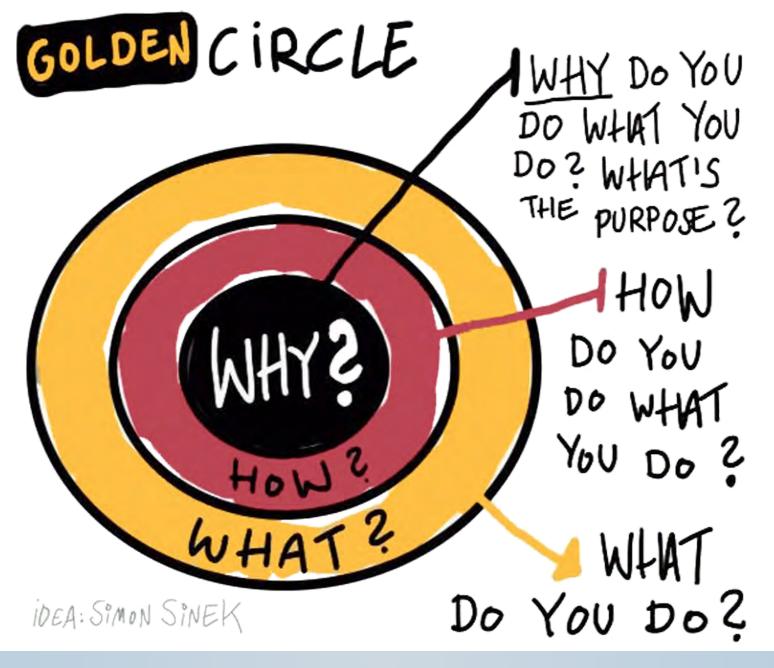


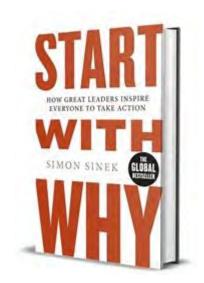
#### Review

- The State of the Typical HVAC System
- The Air Upgrade Approach
- How to Discover Sick HVAC Systems
- Offering the Cure
- Review and Next Steps













## **Next Steps**



- 1. Figure out why you should offer Air Upgrades and write it down.
- 2. Purchase any needed test instruments you may not currently own.
- 3. Practice by testing and diagnosing systems in your home or office.
- 4. Teach others in your company as you learn.
- 5. Slowly add static pressure testing to your service calls and installs.
- 6. Increase your testing skills beyond static pressure and fan airflow.
- 7. Become known as the "airheads" in your community.





#### **About NCI**

Currently we train over 3,000 industry professionals each year and have certified over 40,000 people since our beginning in 1993.

In addition to innovative business and technical training, we offer memberships with distinctive member benefits.

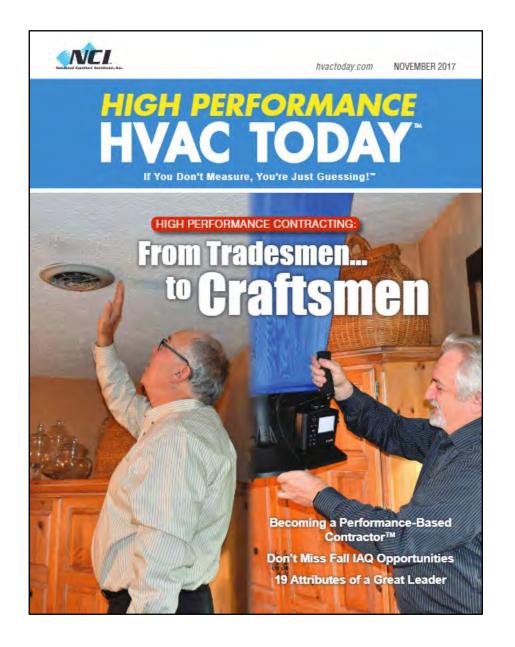
With a dedicated staff nearly 30 strong, NCI wants to continue to be a resource supporting your ongoing learning and business success.



www.nationalcomfortinstitute.com













## **Cure the HVAC Equipment Failure Epidemic** with Simple Air Upgrades

David Richardson National Comfort Institute, Inc davidr@ncihvac.com

Content and illustrations © NCI, Inc. 2023





