



**“Your Comfort is  
Our Commitment”**

**(505) 883.1379**  
8625 Paseo Alameda NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113  
[www.bcarlson.com](http://www.bcarlson.com)

# The Story of Evaporative Coolers

In the Arizona desert in the 1920s, people would often sleep outside on screened-in sleeping porches during the summer. On hot nights, bed sheets or blankets soaked in water would be hung inside of the screens. Whirling electric fans would pull the night air through the moist cloth to cool the room.

That concept, slightly more refined, became the evaporative coolers that to this day provide a low-cost, low-technology alternative to refrigerated air conditioning.

An evaporative cooler produces effective cooling by combining a natural process - water evaporation - with a simple, reliable air-moving system. Fresh outside air is pulled through moist pads where it is cooled by evaporation and circulated through a house or building by a large blower. As this happens, the temperature of the outside air can be lowered typically around 20 degrees depending on outside humidity levels.

Probably because evaporative coolers add moisture to the air and blow it around, they are sometimes known as "swamp coolers." Evaporative coolers can work wonderfully well, provided the outside air they are drawing in is dry and desert-like. As the humidity increases, however, the ability for them to cool the air effectively decreases. Simply put, swamp coolers were not designed to work in swamp-like conditions.



Air conditioning, on the other hand, became popular because of its ability to cool the air, no matter what the humidity might be. Even on humid days, room and central air conditioners can lower the temperature to a thermostatically controlled temperature. They also can use more electricity than swamp coolers do.