
NEWS from CPSC
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Firm's Recall Hotline: (800) 394-8084
CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

CPSC, Goodman Manufacturing Co. Announce Changes to 1998 Recall Program to Replace Dangerous Home Heating Vent Pipes

The CPSC and Goodman Manufacturing Company, of Houston, TX, urge consumers who have not responded to the previously-announced 1998 recall to do so immediately. After October 1, 2009, the remedy consumers receive will change to be identical to modifications recently announced for a related recall.

The recall included about 10,000 Plexvent and Ultravent HTPV pipe systems attached to certain Goodman mid-efficiency furnaces manufactured from October 1988 to July 1994 (models GUP, GDP, GUPS, GDPS, GUPI, GDPI, GUPX, GDPX, GMP and GMPV for the following brands manufactured by Goodman: Janitrol, GMC, Hamilton Electric, Franklin, Liberty and Sears/Kenmore). The HTPV pipe used for these vents could be susceptible to corrosion, cracking and joint separation, which could result in the release of carbon monoxide (CO) into living areas. Goodman did not manufacture the HTPV pipe.

The following table describes the different remedies available to consumers with qualifying furnaces that use the two leading brands of HTPV pipe -- Plexvent and Ultravent.

Valid claims initiated on or before October 1, 2009, with remediation completed and required documentation submitted by January 1, 2010.

Plexvent owners AND Ultravent owners: Will receive a new, professionally-installed venting system free of charge or a new, high-efficiency Goodman furnace and suitable vent for the manufacturer's price (of just the furnace), with no charge for labor, associated materials or dealer markup.

Valid claims initiated after October 1, 2009

Plexvent owners: A rebate up to \$400 toward either an HTPV replacement system, or a new, high-efficiency furnace from Goodman that does not require HTPV.

Ultravent owners: A rebate up to \$250 toward either an HTPV replacement system, or a new, high-efficiency furnace from Goodman that does not require HTPV.

Consumers who register after October 1, 2009 and who choose to repair their systems will be responsible for up-front payment of parts, labor and permits, and will be responsible for arranging to have the work performed.

Consumers should determine whether they have a recalled HTPV pipe system by checking the vent pipes attached to their natural gas furnace. Vent pipes subject to this recall can be identified as follows:

- * the vent pipes are plastic;
- * the vent pipes are colored gray or black;
- * "Plexvent," "Plexvent II" or "Ultravent" is stamped on the vent pipe or printed on stickers placed on pieces used to connect the vent pipes; and
- * the vent pipes are located on furnaces and the pipes go through the sidewalls of structures.

Other plastic vent pipes, such as white PVC, are not included in the recall.

Owners of Goodman furnaces that are vented with HTPV pipe should immediately call Goodman at (800) 394-8084 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. CPSC reminds all consumers to have fuel-burning appliances professionally inspected each year to check for cracks or separations in the vents that could allow CO to leak into the home. In addition, CPSC recommends that every home should have at least one CO alarm.

To see this recall update on CPSC's web site, please go to: <<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml09/09323.html>>