Service Notes

Issue Date: July 20, 2018

Coils

DS-PC071801

Cleaning Aluminum Coils

Units Involved: Indoor Aluminum Coils and Microchannel Coils

Date Codes Involved: All

Details:

When it comes to cleaning aluminum coils, whether they are tube and fin, or Microchannel, there are some considerations that may be different than traditional methods. The intent of this document is to offer factory recommendations for cleaning aluminum evaporator coils and microchannel condensers.

Regarding indoor coils, a proper filter is, undeniably, the best defense against a dirty coil. It should be noted, regardless of the filter choice, proper air flow and velocity also play a crucial role in how effective a filter will be. Most filters will lose their effectiveness when face velocities exceed 300 to 400 FPM. High velocity can allow particles to pass right through the media. Additionally, loaded or restrictive filters may lose their shape in higher velocity applications and allow unfiltered air to bypass the filter altogether around the sides.

Aluminum Evaporator Coils
Evaporator coils, whether coupled to a gas furnace, or included in an air handler can be somewhat difficult to clean. The preferred method is to rinse the coil from both sides with clean water initially or by using a vacuum with a soft brush attachment. In either case, it is important not to allow the tool to damage or bend any fins.

Many Chemical cleaners can cause etching to the zinc layer or the aluminum itself, therefore warm water is the preferred and only method for cleaning our aluminum evaporator coils.

Microchannel Condensers
Microchannel condensers are also to be cleaned with cold or warm water. Microchannel condensers may **NOT** be cleaned using any type of chemical. Properly rinsing with clean, warm water alone will yield suitable results. Use of pressure washing equipment should be below 100 PSI to prevent fin damage. Be sure to apply straight on, not at an angle that may push fins over. The use of any chemical or failing to follow proper use of pressurized water can result in damage not covered under the scope of the coil warranty.

Recommended or Required Action:
No action required.

THIS SERVICE NOTE SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS SERVICE NOTES REGARDING CLEANING ALUMINUM COILS.

Contact your assigned DTR with any questions or concerns.

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