Source Removal Procedure

A technician connects the power vacuum to the home’s air handler with an 8” hose. Then, he inserts the high-velocity Air Sweeper into the duct work. He controls it with a hose connected to the truck’s air compressor which supplies up to 200 pounds of air pressure.

Another technician works inside the home using a high-velocity blower at the registers. This works in conjunction with the vacuum and the appropriate air driven tool, providing additional blasting power to remove particulate matter.

Duct Doctor’s patented vacuum truck is the industry’s most powerful. With the vacuum and cleaning apparatus, all contaminants are removed from the duct work and stored outside in the truck’s debris collector for safe disposal.

As the appropriate high-velocity cleaning apparatus moves through the duct, it completely removes all particulate matter in its path.
What You Should Know About Residential Air Duct Cleaning...

Why do Air Ducts need cleaning, and How Often?

Your HVAC system and air ducts should be cleaned for the same reason that your home needs cleaning. Suppose that your home had not been cleaned for three to five years? Most homeowners keep very clean homes and they cannot believe what is commonly found in HVAC systems. Even new homes have air ducts which are filled with construction debris. It is recommended that HVAC systems be cleaned every three to five years.

Are there health benefits from HVAC system cleaning?

A five year study conducted by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) showed that indoor air pollutant levels exceed outdoor levels by 200 to 500 percent. Many hazardous contaminants, such as mold spores, fungi, bacteria, pollen, animal dander, etc. have the potential to affect your health. Harmful contaminants are pulled into air ducts where warmth, darkness and humidity create a breeding ground for these contaminants. Your HVAC system will continue to disperse these contaminants back into the air that you breathe. The removal of such contaminants from the HVAC system and home should be considered as the first step in an overall plan to improve your indoor air quality.

Will Air Duct cleaning result in lower energy bills?

Research conducted by the EPA and Louisiana State University has shown that removal of debris that builds up inside HVAC systems can improve air flow up to 20% or more. This means that your system should not have to run as long to do the job it was designed to do. Running your system less will reduce energy bills.

How long should it take to clean a residential HVAC system?

There are several factors that could affect the time needed to clean a residential HVAC system. These factors include the type of home, accessibility of ductwork, number of systems, and amount of ductwork circulating the air in your home. Average size homes require 3 to 4 hours for two technicians. Our technicians will stay as long as necessary to thoroughly clean the entire system(s).

What You Should Know About Residential Air Duct Cleaning...

How should a residential HVAC system be cleaned, and what kind of equipment should be used?

The most effective way to clean air ducts and ventilation systems is to use a vacuum system that is strong enough to remove all the harmful debris that has accumulated in the HVAC system. The most powerful vacuum systems are truck mounted systems which place your ductwork under negative pressure up to 10,000 cubic feet of air per minute. While the vacuum draws air through your system, various devices are inserted into the ducts to dislodge the debris that is contaminating your system. These devices include whips, brushes, and “skipper balls”, etc., most of which are powered by compressed air of up to 200 psi. Duct Doctor technicians are trained to select the proper tool designed for your particular type ductwork. In some rare instances, it may not be practical to run our vacuum hose from the truck mounted system. In those cases, for example in a high-rise apartment building, we may bring a large portable unit right to the system. Our portable units are powerful enough to do the job.

What is the normal price I should expect to pay for a professional air duct cleaning service?

The Environmental Protection Agency says that “duct cleaning services typically - but not always - range in cost from $450 to $1,000 per heating and cooling system, depending on the services offered, the size of the system to be cleaned, system accessibility, climactic region, and level of contamination.”

What are sanitizers, and why would they need to be used?

Sanitizers are anti-microbial chemicals applied to the interior surface of the air ducts and are designed to control microbial contamination. Before any sanitizers are used, the system should be thoroughly cleaned. It is critical that any anti-microbial treatment used in your system be EPA registered for use in HVAC systems. Ask to see the chemical’s Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS). It should be noted that there are no EPA registered anti-microbial products for use on porous system surfaces -- such as fiberglass surfaces.

Why should consumers beware of the “So-Called duct cleaners”

Consumers should beware of ‘blow-and-go’ firms who use scare tactics and bait you with cheap prices for “whole house duct cleaning”. Most of these type firms send one person with no more than a shop vac. Before you agree to let these people into your home, we suggest you call them back and ask the following questions:

1. What is your procedure and what kind of equipment do you use to clean my ductwork?
2. How long do you estimate that it will take to properly clean my ductwork?
3. Are you a member of the National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA)?
4. Will your price change once you arrive at my home?

NADCA members have signed a Code of Ethics stating they will do everything possible to protect the consumer, and follow NADCA Standards for cleaning to the best of their ability. Air duct cleaning companies must meet stringent requirements to become a NADCA member. Among those requirements, all NADCA members must have a certified Air System Cleaning Specialist (ASCS) on staff, who have taken and passed the NADCA Certification Examination. Passing the exam demonstrates extensive knowledge in HVAC design and cleaning methodologies. {www.nadca.com}