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HEAT EXCHANGE · AIR HANDLING



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10 Helpful Hints About Replacing Coils

Here is a short list of things that you need to know in order to replace coils adequately. These are just some helpful hints to make your job easier.

1. You rarely have to worry about performance on a replacement coil. The “Laws of Physics” dictate that if you duplicate the face area, fins/inch, and circuiting on a coil, then you automatically duplicate the performance.
2. Performance Part 2: Coils make great filters and when you take an old, inefficient coil out of service that has rarely been cleaned, you don’t have to worry about performance. The replacement coil that you supply will probably give you 50% more performance than the one you replaced. You don’t really have to do much to look like a hero.
3. Connection sizes and locations are easily the most difficult part of the coil to duplicate. This is particularly true if the coil is still in service. What you probably haven’t considered is often that when the coil is replaced, so is the piping. You only have to get the connections in approximately the same location. But you’ll never know unless you ask! About half the time, you don’t have to be exact because the valves and piping will be replaced also.
4. You can make a coil last 50% to 100% longer by simply increasing the wall thickness of the tubes and return bends. The cost to do this is often less than 20% of the coil. If we told you, you could double the life of the a coil for only a 20% add, would you do it? Of course!
5. Pricing a coil is no big deal. You only need to know the coil type (steam, water etc.) rows deep, fins/inch, and height x length and we can work up an accurate price. There is much more information that you need to know to actually

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build the coil. Things like depth, connection size and location, casing dimensions etc. have no effect on price, but are critical to build the coil correctly.

6. Lots of coils never have to be field measured. The beauty of replacing Carrier, Trane, McQuay, or JCI coils is that once you have the coil model number, you know exactly what the coil is. Large manufacturers are production oriented and everything has to be the same. It takes the mystery out of figuring out what's in the unit. Of course, the secret is to be actually able to get the model number.
7. The coil model number is NOT the same as the unit model number. It's not enough to just get the model of the air handling unit. There are many varieties and sizes of coils that go into any unit. The secret is to get the coil model number. It sounds easy, but it's not. There is no easy place to put a tag on a coil. Many coils do not have them, and if they did, they fell off a long time ago. Often you have to find the approved drawings or some records that clearly indicate what's there.
8. Should you rely on a "coil expert" posting ads on Google to give you accurate information on a coil replacement? Only if you have a high tolerance for pain! There are not a lot of highly trained technical people who build replacement coils who can give you good reliable information. We've been in the business since 1960 and have seen it all.
9. Circuiting coils exactly is a difficult proposition. Just so you know that you're trying to feed the same number of tubes as the old coil and it really doesn't matter how you do it. We've had people send in drawings or digital pictures with every return bend to show us the exact pattern. It doesn't matter. Performance is a function of how many tubes you feed and how fast the water is traveling through the coil. It's not necessary to get too fancy. Just count the number of feed tubes and we'll take care of the rest.
10. Do some homework on your coil manufacturer. Make sure they are really a manufacturer and not some coil broker who just slaps his label on another manufacturer's coil. Many of these "coil brokers" say they're the original manufacturer, but in reality, all you're doing is paying for an extra markup.

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