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Technical Information Sheet

Maintenance and Cleaning of heat exchangers

All Heatex' heat exchangers (Models H and P with corrugated surfaces as well as model F with flat surfaces) have been designed in such a way that dirt is prevented from coming into contact with the heat transfer surfaces. Most of the dirt that is contained in the air will just pass through the heat exchanger since it has been designed in a correct way.

Substances that have the highest risk of fouling the exchanger are sticky substances that condense on the surfaces and also fibres from, for instance, dry tumblers.

Experience has shown that the build up of dirt in a heat exchanger is often limited to the first 50 mm in the exchanger, which simplifies cleaning. For normal ventilation applications, it is mostly satisfactory to clean the inlet and outlet with a brush or to clean them by using hot water and, if needed, some mild detergent.

For more dirty applications, compressed air or high pressure water flushing can be used provided maximum flushing pressure with a flat flushing nozzle is kept below 100 bar. Please observe that high pressure flushing must not be made directly against the plates!

Although the plates in the aluminium heat exchangers are made of material that is up to 0.25 mm thick, care must be taken when mechanical means to remove dirt is used so that the plates does not deform or brake.

From the heat exchanger point of view it is always positive to use a filter before the exchanger to prevent dirt from depositing but it is however not necessary except in a few special applications. The disadvantage with using filters is that they need to be changed regularly and also there is a hygienic risk in using filters because they will collect particles and other things that otherwise would be leaving the building (or process) with the exhaust airstream.