

Know-how

Technical Corner



Drain Traps-- Are More Important Than You Think!

by: Joey Henderson, Field Service Representative

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All evaporator coils need traps. However, on air handlers and package units the proper size trap is critical and must not be overlooked. In my experience, the drain trap has been an overlooked source of high humidity, water-logged air handlers as well as mold growth inside equipment.

The installation instructions give the proper dimensions for a drain trap. Basically, the trap needs to have a 4" depth to overcome the typical pressure drop through a coil. A typical "P-trap" is not deep enough and results in moisture problems in the equipment. A proper field fabricated trap or some manufactured ones, such as "EZ Trap", meet the minimum depth requirements. The trap should also be within 4' or closer to the equipment.

Manufactured Trap

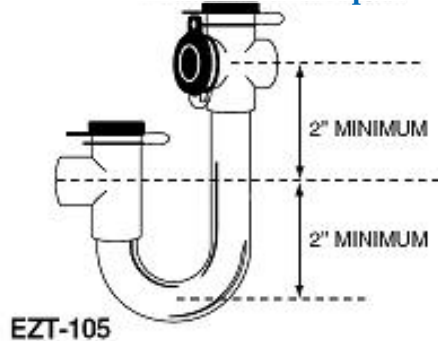
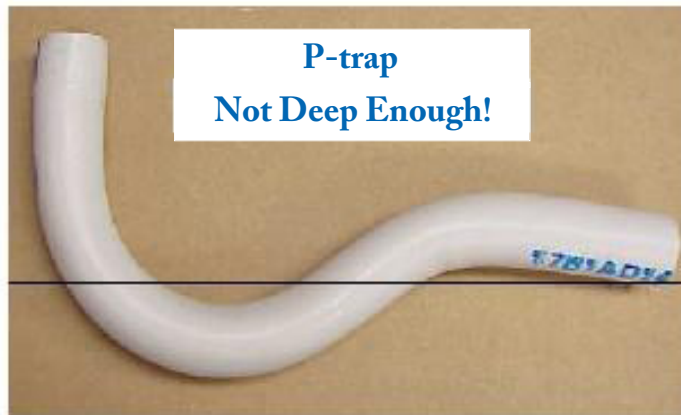
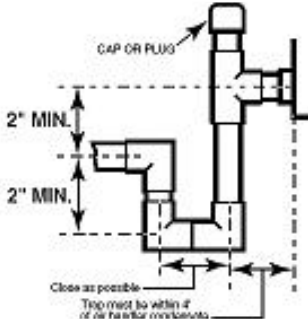


Figure 15



Field Fabricated Trap



The manufacturer traps are 4" down and 2" back up (Figure 15 - pictured top left), and a field fabricated trap (pictured bottom left) has the same dimensions. However, the common "P-trap" pictured above is only 3/4" deep. Not near enough!

If you have technical questions about Trane HVAC equipment, call Joey Henderson at 803.727.4310, or email him at jhenderson@gwd-ac.com.