

Tech Corner



Electronic Type Air Cleaners – Things to Remember!

by: Joey Henderson, Field Service Representative

Electronic Air Cleaners are more common place these days more than ever in homes. Most consumers assume that no matter how it gets installed it should work. Of course, we in the service industry know that the way it is installed has **everything** to do with how it works!

Here are a few key things to remember when installing an electronic type air cleaner:

- Return(s) must be located in order to pull a good sample of the air from the house. A single return in a home that has multiple rooms and hallways may not do the job. Consider more returns for better air sampling back to the air cleaner.
- The correct amount of return air is very critical. If you are short on return air, then the performance on cleaning will be very low.
- Any transitions between the air cleaner and equipment need to be completely sealed. If there are any unsealed joints in the transition then the unit will pull air through the unsealed joints first which will bypass the air cleaner completely. If the unit is in a crawl space, the air will be dusty and dirty. This is especially true for those seams on the bottom which often get neglected because they are a pain to get to ("*been there-done that!*").
- Very high ceiling returns are often a problem for air cleaners. Unless the dust gets carried up to a high ceiling return, the dust in the static air in the lower half of the home will accumulate on the furniture. Therefore, consider adding a low return for better air sampling.
- Always have a full-open smooth transition between an electronic type air cleaner and the return duct being connected. Many air cleaners are panned off and have a hole cut in them for the attachment of the return duct. This can easily reduce the air cleaner's effectiveness by 50%.

Remember, air cleaners can only clean up the air that comes through them!

The hot summer is coming!

Don't forget to review my previous article on TXV troubleshooting.

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