PAIR



SUCCESS WITH DUCT REPAIR

What every contractor needs to know.

SUCCESS WITH DUCT REPAIR

Duct Repair + Sealing Contents

Duct repair and sealing is a challenging and important job. Done right it can bring increased comfort, safety and health to the home's occupant while saving them money on their heating and cooling bills. The purpose of this guide is to assist you, the duct repair and sealing professional, with getting the job done right the first time – every time. Below is a list of provided materials in this section.

Health + Safety	4
Duct Sealing Checklist	5
Critical Detail: Sealing Ducts	8
Additional Job Aids	
Critical Detail: Installing Metal Ducts	10
Critical Detail: Installing Flex Ducts	12
Critical Detail: Installing Duct Support for Flex Ducts	14
Critical Detail: Installing Tie Bands	16
Information Sheet: Accessing Duct Leakage Sites	18
Tech Tips: Accessing Duct Leakage Sites	19
Critical Detail: Sealing Small, Medium + Large Holes	22
Sealing Framed Returned Platforms	27



SUCCESS WITH DUCT REPAIR

Duct Repair + Sealing Contents

Critical Detail: Installing Bar-faced Return Grilles	29
Critical Detail: Static Pressure Testing Package	31
Critical Detail: Static Pressure Testing, Air Handler in Attic	33
Critical Detail: Static Pressure Testing, Platform System	35
Critical Detail: Anti-Stick Register Sealing	37
Critical Detail: Evaporative Duct Cooler Removal and Sealing	39
Critical Detail: Block & Sealing at End of Trunk Line - Mobile Homes	41



Health + Safety: Introduction

The introduction to this manual introduced EPA's Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades. The document is a useful tool for finding solutions for common issues that arise when completing home energy upgrades. This page will highlight some important details in the document in relation to safety when duct sealing.

Health + Safety: Worker Safety

As mentioned in the introduction, it is required for all contractors to follow OSHA regulations. By law, employers and supervisors are required to ensure that all workers have the correct personal protective equipment. These items include, but aren't limited to:

- Gloves
- · Protective clothing
- Knee pads
- Eye protection
- Respirators: Different types of respirators are required for different jobs. Use the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades to verify that your current respirator is compliant with the job.
- · Non-contact voltage detectors

Tip: It is important to keep your PPE in good condition. Having a bag that stores all of your PPE and supplies for cleaning the items will save you time and keep you safe.

Health + Safety: Health Hazards

It is important to look for hazards and create a mitigation plan before beginning work. The list below highlights the most important items to identify and mitigate for all duct repair jobs:

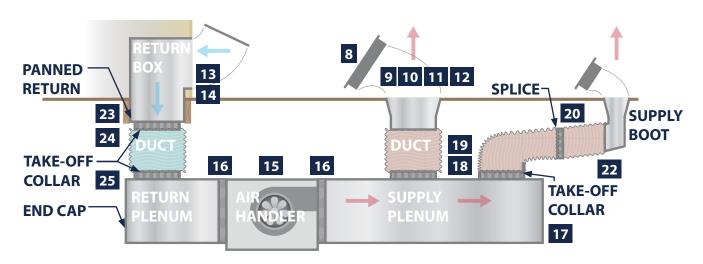
Health + Safety Information Sheet

- Sewer gases, fuel oil, chemicals and other pollutants in crawl spaces or attics
- Mold-like growth in attics and crawl spaces
- Presence of pest/rodents in crawl spaces or attics
- Lack of CO alarm in all houses
- Unvented combustion appliances
- Duct tapes and wrappings that are likely to contain asbestos

If any of these conditions exist, follow action items listed in the Healthy Indoor Environment Protocols for Home Energy Upgrades before beginning work.

5

DUCT SEALING



✓	N/A	PREP
		1. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.
		2. Verify that a ventilation plan is established.
		3. Put on all personal protection equipment (PPE).
		4. Identify all worker and occupant safety hazards.
		5. Identify all potential durability issues.
		6. Address all combustion safety, worker safety, occupant safety and durability issues prior to starting work and notify the occupant. Do not complete work if a life safety hazard is identified.
✓	N/A	INSIDE THE LIVING SPACE
		7. Turn the HVAC fan on and feel for air flowing out of each supply with your hand. Note any supply lines not providing air. Turn the fan off.
		8. Remove all supply registers and return grilles.
		9. Fasten all supply boots to subfloor with screws.
		10. Seal all duct inner liners to each supply boot.

CHECKLIST:

DUCT SEALING

	12. Seal all gaps between the subfloor or ceiling and the supply boot.			
	13. Seal all seams of each return box.			
		14. Seal all gaps between the subfloor, wall or ceiling and the return box.		
✓	N/A	OUTSIDE THE LIVING SPACE		
		15. Tape the air handler cabinet panels and seal all penetrations.		
		16. Mechanically fasten and seal the connection between the air handler and the plenums.		
		17. Mechanically fasten and seal all supply plenum seams and end caps.		
		18. Mechanically fasten and seal the connection between supply take-off collars and plenums.		
		19. Mechanically fasten and seal inner liner of all supply ducts to supply take-off collars.		
		20. Inspect all supply ducts for disconnects, tears and/or holes and pay attention to supply lines that were not providing air inside the house. Fix by reconnecting ducts and patching holes. If flex duct, remove section with hole or tear and replace with a sealed spliced collar.		
	21. Fasten and seal all sectioned metal elbows to supply ducts and take-off collars.			
	22. Fasten and seal inner liner of all supply ducts to supply boots. Skip this step if sealed from inside the living space.			
		23. Seal all panned returns.		
		24. Inspect all return ducts for disconnects, tears and/or holes. Fix by reconnecting, patching or fastening ducts together then sealing the connections. If flex duct, remove section with hole or tear and replace with a sealed spliced collar.		
		25. Seal the connection between supply take-off collars and plenums.		
✓	N/A	CLOSE OUT		
		26. Clean the work area.		
	27. Complete a combustion safety test and record the results.			
		28. Educate occupants on the work completed.		
JOB INFORMATION				
Name		Initials		

DUCT SEALING

NOTES			
Location (e.g., NW corner of house)	Issue (e.g., disconnect, crimped duct)		

DUCT SEALING GUIDELINES

For seams, cracks joints, holes and penetrations that are:

1/4-inch or less (small)

Seal with mastic.





1/4-inch to 3/4-inch (medium)

Install temporary tape. Apply a base coat of mastic. Apply fiberglass mesh tape. Apply mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape.





3/4-inch or greater (large)

Mechanically fasten rigid support material that is at least 1 in. larger than the hole. Apply base coat of mastic, fiberglass mesh tape and top coat of mastic.



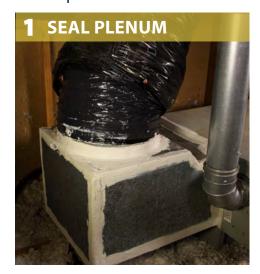


SEALING DUCTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts and plenums sealed to prevent leakage.	Duct and plenum not sealed.	Duct and plenum sealed.
	BEFORE	AFTER
	Gloves, appropriate respira	itor, safety glasses
* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.		

SEALING DUCTS

Seal plenum with mastic. Choose the appropriate sealing technique based on hole size.



Replace outer liner and insulation.



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Peel back outer liner and insulation.



Install nylon tie band around inner liner using a tie band tensioning tool.



Install nylon tie band around inner liner using a tie band tensioning tool.



Seal inner liner with mastic. Choose the appropriate sealing technique based on hole size.



No	otes	
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INSTALLING METAL DUCTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts properly installed and sealed to prevent leak-		
age.	Duct not sealed.	Duct sealed and insulated.
	BEFORE	
	Gloves, appropriate respirat	or, safety glasses
* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.		

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INSTALLING METAL DUCTS

Roof termination fittings: use 90° fitting first. Wall termination fittings: use a straight fitting.



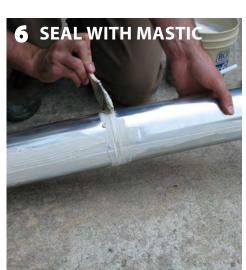
Fasten duct connections with a minimum of three equally spaced screws.



If a termination is not installed, follow the exhaust fan termination installation critical detail.



Seal all seams and joints.



Install duct pieces with crimped ends pointed in the direction of air flow. Cut pieces to fit.



If installing duct in unconditioned space, wrap the duct with insulation and seal the seams.



For the connection between the duct and the termination, install the termination cap adaptor.



	E CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF TH
Notes:	

INSTALLING FLEX DUCTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts properly installed and sealed to prevent leakage.		
age.	Duct not sealed.	Duct sealed and insulated.
		CAST AND US MICHOLOGICAL A
	Gloves, appropriate respirato	er, safety glasses
* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.		

INSTALLING FLEX DUCTS

Measure and cut flex to run between fitting.



Connect the flex duct at both ends using flex duct ties.



Seal each flex duct connection with mastic.



Pull flex duct insulation into place and seal with mastic.



Support the duct at least every 4 ft.



Flex duct supported every 4' using a minimum of 1 1/2" wide material,

INSTALLING DUCT SUPPORT FOR FLEX DUCTS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts properly su interior dimensions.	pported to not kink or reduce	Flex duct needing support straps. creating no crimps or interior dimension reduction.		
		BEFORE		
		- Gloves, appropriate respirato	r, safety glasses	
		_		
		_		
		_		
		_		
		_		

* Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include

INSTALLING DUCT SUPPORT FOR FLEX DUCTS

Attach support material to framing (i.e., truss, rafter or joist).



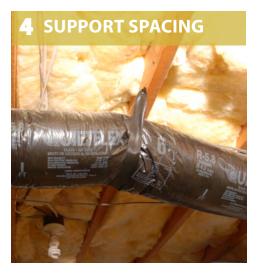
Run support material under flex duct and lift into correct position.



Attach support material to framing (i.e., truss, rafter or joist).



Flex duct supported every 4' having no crimps or interior dimension reduction.



Notes:

Joints fastened with tie bands

INSTALLING TIE BANDS OR ZIP TIES

DESIRED OUTCOME: Ducts and plenums properly fastened to prevent leakage.		Flex-to-collar connection needing tie ban. using a tie band tensioning Metal ducts will be support intervals not exceeding 10	
		BEFORE	AFTER
		Gloves, appropriate respirato	r, safety glasses
		_	



^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

INSTALLING TIE BANDS OR ZIP TIES

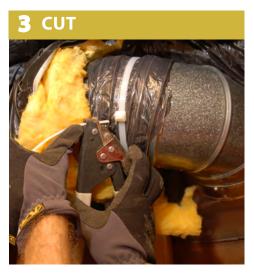
Place tie band being used around the connection.



Tighten tie band using tie band tensioning tool.



Cut off tie band tail using tie band tensioning tool.



Notes:

Accessing Duct Leakage Sites

DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

These tech tips show how to access the areas listed below:

- A. Air Handler to Plenum
- B. S and Drive Connections
- C. Take Off Collar to Plenum
- D. Splices
- E. Return Platform
- F. Metal Plenums
- G. Duct Board Plenums
- H. Panned Returns
- I. Inner Liner to Boot Connections
- J. Package Units

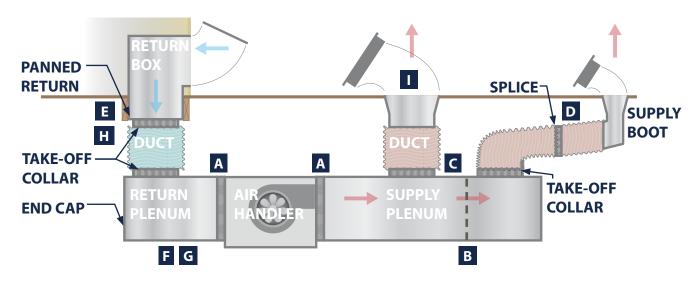
HEALTH + SAFETY

Put on all PPE before beginning any work. Place duct tape over sharp metal edges during work.

TOOLS

Be sure to have, at a minimum, these tools:

- Utility knife or Scissors
- Screwdrivers
- Drill
- Flashlight
- Cutter
- Tin snips



Introduction

One of the first steps to sealing a duct system is gaining access to the leakage site. Reference the following TECH TIPS for before and after illustrations on how and where to gain access at various duct leakage sites. Illustrations are provided for the following sites:

- A. Air Handler to Plenum
- B. S and Drive Connections
- C. Take Off Collar to Plenum
- D. Splices
- E. Return Platform
- F. Metal Plenums
- G. Duct Board Plenums
- H. Panned Returns
- I. Inner Liner to Boot Connections
- J. Package Units

Health + Safety

Prior to starting work, make sure to have all the necessary PPE equipment (gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses, etc.). While accessing these locations, place duct tape over the sharp metal edges where access holes have been cut can help protect the worker from injury.

Tools

It is important to gather all necessary materials and tools before accessing duct leakage sites. Some necessary tools include utility knives, screwdrivers, a drill, flashlights, sheet metal hole or circle cutter and tin snips.

For more information about how to seal these locations please reference our Sealing Duct Leakage Sites CRITICAL DETAILS.

ACCESSING DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

A. Air Handler to Plenum (Externally insulated metal): Gain access to joint by peeling back plenum insulation.





S and Drive Connections in Plenum (Externally insulated B. metal): Gain access to joint by peeling back plenum insulation.





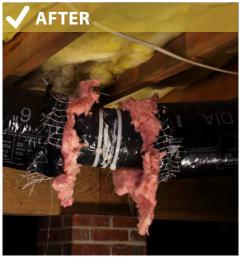
C. Take Off Collar to Plenum: Gain access to joint by removing outer nylon tie band or tape and peeling back insulation.



AFTER

D. Splices: Gain access to connection by removing outer nylon tie band or tape and peeling back insulation.





Return to Index

ACCESSING DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

E. Return Platform: Create temporary access hole by removing or cutting cladding of return platform.





F. Metal Plenums: Create temporary access hole by cutting hole through accessible side of plenum.





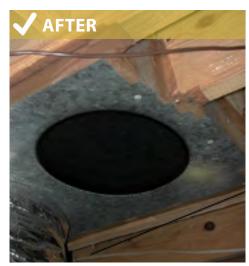
Duct Board Plenums: Create temporary access hole by cutting hole through accessible side of plenum. Make sure to "pumpkin cut" for ease of patching hole.





H. Panned Returns: Create temporary access hole by cutting hole through accessible area of return.

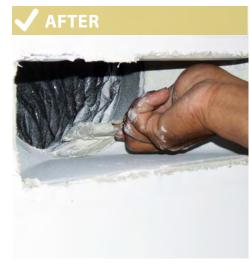




ACCESSING DUCT LEAKAGE SITES

Inner Liner to Boot: Gain access to connection from inside home by removing supply grill.





J. Package Units (Ground level): Gain access to connections by removing shroud.





Package Units (Ground level): Gain access to connections by removing shroud and cutting holes in supply and return ducts.





Notes:			

SEALING SMALL, MEDIUM + LARGE HOLES

	technique specific se vertical gr	ing access to the leakage site, choose the appropriate sealing from below. Each of these step-by-step groupings illustrate a ealing technique based on the hole size. Please reference the ray text boxes and first step of each series to ensure the correct sep process is being followed. There are 3 sets to choose from:
		MALL HOLES) - MASTIC ONLY: ams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch or s.
	——————————————————————————————————————	EDIUM HOLES) - TEMPORARY TAPE + MASTIC + MESH TAPE ams, cracks joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch to 4-inch.
	Sea	ARGE HOLES) - RIGID SUPPORT + MASTIC + MESH TAPE: ams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 4-inch.
	Gloves,	appropriate respirator, safety glasses
* Materials and tools listed are only re		

^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not includ everything needed to complete job.

SEALING SMALL HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch or less.

Seal with mastic.



Notes:



SEALING MEDIUM HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are 1/4-inch to 3/4-inch.



Install temporary tape over seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations.



Apply a base coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond tape.



Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.



Notes:

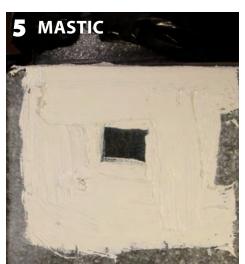
- Temporary tape can be a variety of different types of tape. It is used to prevent mastic from falling into the hole and should only be used if also using mesh tape for reinforcement.

SEALING LARGE HOLES

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 3/4-inch.



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.



Install rigid duct support material that is at least 1 inch larger than the hole.



Apply a base coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond support material.



Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.

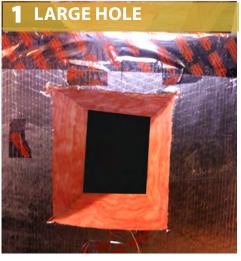


Notes:

•			
•			
•			
•			

SUCCESS WITH DUCT REPAIR

Seams, cracks, joints, holes and penetrations that are larger than 3/4-inch.



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.



Replace cut out. Make sure to "pumpkin cut" for ease of patching hole.



Apply a coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond support material.



Apply fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond mastic.



Notes:

SEALING FRAMED RETURN PLATFORMS

DESIRED OUTCOME: Return air sealed to minimize air leakage

MATERIALS	TOOLS
_	

Rough frame support platform.



Platform completely lined and air sealed.



SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

SEALING FRAMED RETURN PLATFORMS

Remove grille or cut access hole into framed platform.



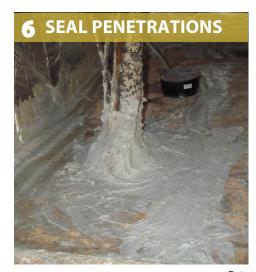
If refrigerant and condensate lines penetrate the platform return, provide infill and seal as needed.



Clean out debris and dirt from return platform.



If refrigerant and condensate lines terminate to the outside, install hardware cloth or equivalent rodent barrier.



Line plenum with duct board. Mechanically fasten duct board to framing.



Seal the inside of the return. Choose the appropriate sealing technique based on hole size.



Notes:

Scrap flashing material can make great washers for use when securing duct board. If using this technique, exercise caution and make sure to wear gloves to protect your hands from the sharp edges.

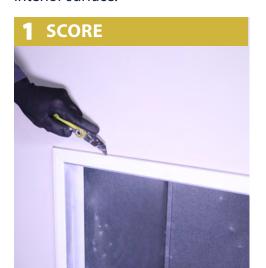
INSTALLING BAR-FACED GRILLES

DESIRED OUTCOME: Increase air flow	through the return grille	Stamp-faced return grille.	Bar-faced return grille.
		BEFORE	AFTER
		 Gloves, appropriate respirat	tor, safety glasses

^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

INSTALLING BAR-FACED GRILLS

If present, score any caulk or paint sealing between return grille and interior surface.



Remove filter and grill.



If present, score any mastic or duct tape sealing between return grill flange and return. Remove screws.



Remove frame.



Seal return to sheetrock connection.



Install new grille and filter.



Notes:

STATIC PRESSURE TESTING #1, (Package Unit)

DESIRED OUTCOME: To measure total static pressure.		Untested system	Tested system
	TOOLS	full operating load, is within 15% system design and within the rai product data. Airflow across the between 350 to 450 cfm per ton. QI-2007)	the coil, at fan design speed and of the airflow required per the age recommended by the OEM coil is typically (ACCA Standard 5, ANSI/ACCA 5
		Gloves, appropriate respirate	or, safety glasses

^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

STATIC PRESSURE TESTING #1, (PACKAGE SYSTEMS)

Prepare home for static pressure testing. Open interior doors. Registers all open.

DOORS & REGISTERS

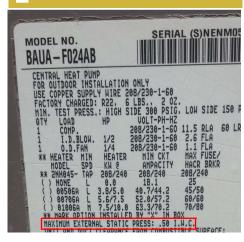


Attach hoses to manometer inputs. Turn on manometer. Press Units button once. (in w.c.)



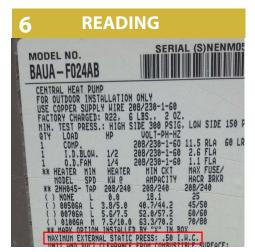
Find furnace, heat pump, etc. and search for Data Tag. Find Max. Ext. Static Pressure.

2 FIND STATIC PRESSURE



Compare reading to Data Plate. Make appropriate

recommendations.



Drill 1/4" dia. hole into ductwork on both sides of the air handler. Point probes into airflow.

DRILL TWO HOLES



For package systems, drill 1/4" dia. hole both sides of each access panel.

4 LOCATE ELBOWS



Notes:

STATIC PRESSURE TESTING #2, (AIR HANDLER IN ATTIC)

DESIRED OUTCOME: To measure total static pressure.		Untested system	Tested system	
			Gloves, appropriate respirato	r, safety glasses
-				

^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

STATIC PRESSURE TESTING #2, (AIR HANDLER IN ATTIC)

Prepare home for static pressure testing. Open interior doors. Registers all open.

1 DOORS & REGISTERS



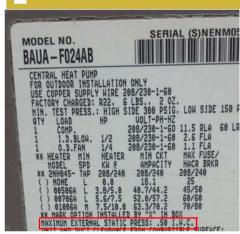
Insert probes facing into the air stream.

INSERT PROBES



Find furnace, heat pump, etc. and search for Data Tag. Find Max. Ext. Static Pressure.

2 FIND STATIC PRESSURE



Attach hoses to manometer inputs. Turn on manometer. Press Units button once. (in w.c.)

MANOMETER ON



Drill 1/4" dia. hole into ductwork on both sides of the air handler. Point probes into airflow.

3 DRILL TWO HOLES



Add values together, ignore + and - signs.

aria - sigris.

7 READING



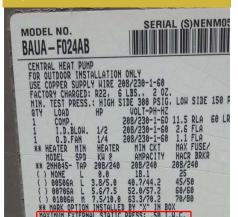
For air handler systems, drill 1/4" dia. hole both sides of air handler unit.





Compare reading to Data Plate. Make appropriate recommendations.





STATIC PRESSURE TESTING #3, (PLATFORM)

DESIRED OUTCOME: To measure total static pressure.		Untested system	Tested system
MATERIALS	TOOLS	BEFORE	AFTER BOTH PRIME & FOW GROUP OF THE PRIME
		Gloves, appropriate respirat	Y + NOTES For, safety glasses



^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

STATIC PRESSURE TESTING #3, (PLATFORM)

Prepare home for static pressure testing. Open interior doors. Registers all open.

1 DOORS & REGISTERS



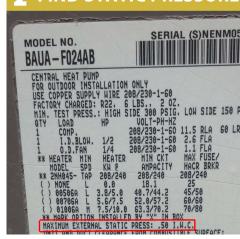
Attach hoses to manometer inputs. Turn on manometer. Press Units button once. (in w. c.)

5 MANOMETER ON



Find furnace, heat pump, etc. and search for Data Tag. Find Max. Ext. Static Pressure.

2 FIND STATIC PRESSURE



For Air Handlers on a platform return, take reading at supply plenum close to cabinet.

6 SUPPLY READING



Drill 1/4" dia.. hole into ductwork on both sides of the air handler. Point probes into airflow.

3 DRILL TWO HOLES



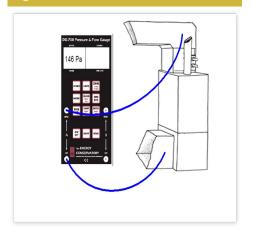
Take return reading in platform whenever position allows for probe to align against airflow.

7 RETURN READING



For platform systems, drill 1/4" dia. hole both sides of elbow or one hole in each access panel.

4 LOCATE ELBOWS



SAFETY + NOTES

ANTI-STICK REGISTER SEALING

DESIRED OUTCOME: To prevent registers stick	king to mastic while drying.	Removal difficult	Removal easy
		Gloves, appropriate respirato	r, safety glasses



^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

ANTI-STICK REGISTER SEALING

Remove register.

Seal Register boot to wallboard.

opening that would be covered by the register.

Apply duct sealing tape across the





Fold edges of tape over wet mastic just enough to cover wet mastic.





Inspect



Replace register.

around inside of opening as close as possible to duct work, so that it does not come loose or restrict air flow. **CUT TAPE**

Using a utility knife, cut duct tape

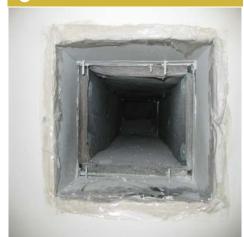


Notes:





INSPECT 6



REPLACE REGISTER

EVAPORATIVE COOLER DUCT REMOVAL & SEALING

DESIRED OUTCOME: To seal main trunk line from leaking.		conditioning duct connections. Evaporative cooler capped and sealed.		
		Gloves, appropriate respirato	r, safety glasses	



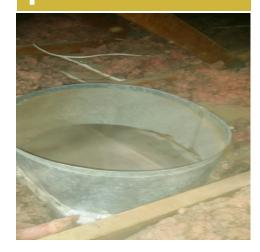
^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

EVAPORATIVE COOLER DUCT REMOVAL & SEALING

Remove evaporative cooler from main trunk line.

Prep opening from abandoned evaporative cooler duct.

REMOVE DUCT



Apply a second coat of mastic atop fiberglass mesh tape to completely cover and extend beyond tape.





2 PREP HOLE



Cover with insulation when finished

e



Install rigid duct support material that is at least 1 inch larger than the hole.

3 SUPPORT MATERIAL



Apply a coat of mastic to completely cover and extend beyond support material.

4 MASTIC



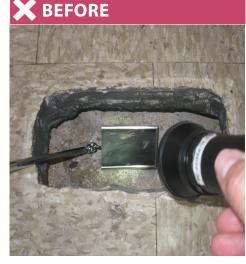
Notes:

END OF TRUNK LINE BLOCK & SEALING, (MOBILE HOME)

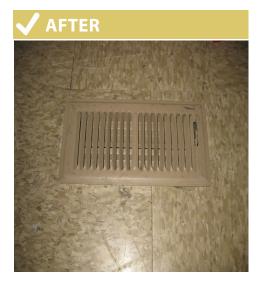
DESIRED OUTCOME: Trunk line sealed to prevent leakage at ends.

		U
MATERIALS	TOOLS	>
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		G

Open duct run.



Blocked and sealed duct run.



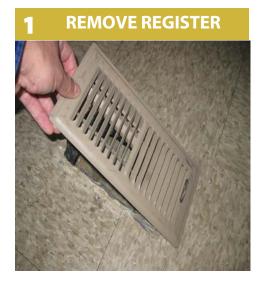
SAFETY + NOTES

Gloves, appropriate respirator, safety glasses

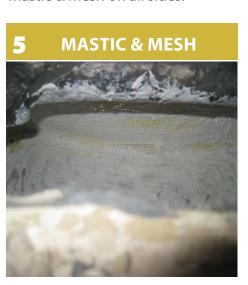
^{*} Materials and tools listed are only recommendations and may not include everything needed to complete job.

BLOCK AND SEALING AT END OF TRUNK LINE - MOBILE HOME

Remove register



Seal the duct board with mastic & mesh on all sides.



Confirm no additional registers exist further along the duct run.



Re-inspect and replace register.

Measure/cut duct board to snuggly fit in duct run.



To facilate better air flow, insert duct board a minimum of 6" past last register on run.



Notes:



