



THE AIR DUCT CLEANING PROCESS

The National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA) recognizes the "Source Removal" method as the only acceptable way to properly clean and decontaminate air duct systems. Although duct cleaning is a fairly routine process, it does involve knowledge of the duct system and its various components.

Conventional air duct systems consist of a supply and a return. The supply ducts of an HVAC system supplies heated or cooled air from the air handler to a main "trunk" line. The main trunk line carries the air to smaller "branch" lines which then distributes the air to various locations throughout the home.

Although air duct systems may vary throughout the country, a typical job would work as follows:

- 1) Turn the system on to make sure it is operating properly. Once you determine that everything is operating fine, turn the system off.
- 2) The furnace filter is removed, wrapped in plastic, and reinstalled to separate the supply and return sides of the system.
- 3) An 8" and 12" access hole is then cut into the main trunk line near the plenum. A zone bag is then inflated in the duct between the access hole and the plenum. This helps insure a strong vacuum and a good negative pressure on the system.
- 4) Install the duct mounting flange over the access hole and attach the flex duct with a quick connect clamp. The other end of the flex duct will be attached to your Nikro Portable Air Duct Cleaner. Turn the machine on.
- 5) Now that the system is running and under negative pressure, go to each register and seal them off with plastic sheets or foam blocks. This will increase your air velocity. NOTE: If you are cleaning a large home, the use of more than one zone bag may be necessary to better manage the air flow.
- 6) Starting from the furthest register, you will clean each branch line by using nylon duct brushes, cable driven brushes, or forward air blast assemblies to loosen debris to the main trunk line, where it will be vacuumed out by your Nikro Air Duct Cleaner. The process is then repeated at each register. Once all the branch lines have been cleaned, you will then clean out the main trunk line.
- 7) Once the supply side has been thoroughly cleaned, repeat steps 3 through 6 on the return side.
- 8) Now that the duct system has been cleaned, you can clean the A-coils and the blower.
- 9) After the system has been cleaned an EPA registered air duct sanitizer may be applied. While the system is still under negative pressure, the sanitizer is sprayed into each register with an Ultra Low Volume (ULV) Fogger.
- 10) Once the system has been thoroughly cleaned and sanitized, reseal all access holes with metal patches, then reinstall all registers.

OPTIONAL SERVICES:

FILTER REPLACEMENT: Many air duct cleaners offer filter replacement to their customers - replacing the less efficient fiberglass filters with a high efficiency pleated or an electrostatic filter. This will dramatically reduce dust build-up inside the air ducts.

DRYER VENT CLEANING: Dryer vent cleaning is often overlooked. By having their dryer vents cleaned, your customers will reduce drying time and save on utility bills. The customer may also be eliminating a potential fire hazard.

NOTE: THE PROCEEDING INFORMATION IS ONLY A BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE AIR DUCT CLEANING PROCESS. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE USED FOR TRAINING. ANY TECHNICIAN PERFORMING AIR DUCT CLEANING SHOULD HAVE A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF THE AIR HANDLING SYSTEM AND THE AIR DUCT CLEANING PROCESS.