

THE QUEST FOR FULL SYSTEM CLOSURE

WHAT IS FULL SYSTEM CLOSURE?

Full system closure means no leaks. An installer must identify all the spots in a system where air leaks could occur. Once these areas have been identified, the proper tape must be chosen to permanently seal the system.

THINGS TO CONSIDER:

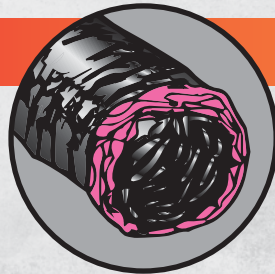
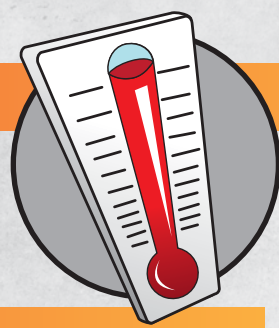


APPLICATION TECHNIQUE

HVAC tapes are pressure-sensitive and require some type of force to create the bond to the surface. Without this pressure when the tape is applied, the system is susceptible to air leaks and failure. A squeegee can help the installer provide the proper amount of pressure. It's also imperative when applying the tape not to overstretch it, as this could result in elongation that results in air leaks.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Temperature, humidity and cleanliness of the area can affect the performance of your HVAC tape. If you're working in cold temperatures, it's imperative to select a tape that is cold-temperature approved. Removing dust, dirt and oils from the surface is also critical to the tape's adhesion performance.



APPLICATION SURFACE

What you are sealing also dictates the type of tape needed for the job. This may include aluminum ductwork, sheet metal, Class 1 flex duct, insulated ductboard, scrim-reinforced duct insulation, etc. Some surfaces demand a specialized tape, so it's important to get all the facts first.

CODE COMPLIANCE

Tapes must pass a series of tests for adhesion level, shear strength, tensile strength, and burn, mold and humidity resistance to achieve compliance status. Without the proper tape in place to meet specific building codes, the system may fail the inspection.

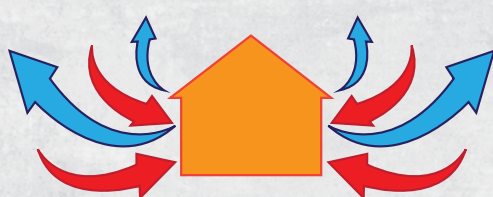


TAPES VARY IN CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS:

- **Permeability:** the tape's ability to keep contaminants from coming in and air from leaking out
- **Adhesion:** the tape's ability to form a permanent and strong bond
- **Conformability:** the tape's ability to be pressed around and onto irregular or non-smooth surfaces
- **Tack:** the tape's ability to stick right away
- **Strength:** the tape's ability to hold up to various applications; some applications demand maximum-strength performance

All of these factors should be considered when selecting a tape.

SO WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF USING THE WRONG TAPE FOR THE JOB?



System is susceptible to air leaks and failure



Indoor air quality concerns due to contaminants



System fails the inspection



Lifespan of system is shortened



System runs more hours than necessary—Costly electric bills



Call-backs to fix issues



Damage to your reputation



Loss of business, tax incentives