

A special section of **snips**

Spiral Duct:

Coming full circle



Self-sealing duct systems offer advantages over regular fittings

During the past several years, the sheet metal industry has achieved great strides in developing quality self-sealing ductwork. Self-sealing systems use smartly designed gasket connections to create tight seals. Today, more and more engineers and contractors are specifying self-sealing duct systems on projects.

The reasons are:

1. Self-sealing duct systems cost less to install.

While external sealants are needed to complete traditional duct systems — adding labor costs — self-sealing systems eliminate this expense. Studies have shown that self-sealing duct systems trim 15 percent to 25 percent off field-installation costs.

2. Self-sealing duct systems distribute cleaner air.

Duct systems that use gasket connections prevent infiltration, keeping mold and moisture from contaminating the system.

3. Self-sealing duct systems lock in energy savings.

Leaky duct systems not only bleed air, they also squander valuable energy dollars. Today's energy costs make this more important than ever before. Self-sealing duct systems enable all of the air produced by the air-handling equipment to reach its destination, eliminating the need to oversize the equipment. This further reduces operating, as well as initial construction, costs.

Key factors in choosing a self-sealing duct system

Several important factors need to be considered when choosing a self-sealing duct system. Here are five crucial points to consider:

Be sure that you choose a supplier that guarantees its work and enjoys a solid reputation for customer service.

Flexibility in assembly is crucial. Some manufacturers of self-sealing duct demand that you buy a complete system, giving you no option of selecting just the parts you need.



Obviously, the more choices you have, the better you can tailor a project to your precise requirements.

Does your supplier offer custom solutions? Again, some manufacturers are inflexible when you make special requests. It pays to select a supplier that caters to your custom needs.

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Can you purchase the system from a local or regional manufacturer? If so, you'll benefit from reduced shipping charges and may receive service that is more personal.

Does the manufacturer offer a broad range of sizes? Make sure your supplier can deliver self-sealing duct systems of at least 48 inches in diameter. If not, part of your system may require manual sealing methods, eroding some of the savings inherent in a self-sealing system.

(This article was supplied by Portland, Ore.-based Streimer Sheet Metal Works Inc.)