

Good Practices & Procedures for Coil Cleaning

A. Good Practices:

1. Always wear goggles, gloves, and work boots.
2. Avoid contact of coil cleaner with skin and clothing, and avoid breathing mists.
3. When mixing, add water to sprayer first, then cleaner.
4. Be aware of surroundings - food, plants, etc. and the potential for human exposure.
5. Always read directions and follow recommended dilution ratios. More is not always better. Using cleaner straight is not recommended if dilution rates are provided.
6. Nu-Calgon coil cleaners are highly concentrated and are designed to be diluted.
7. Spray the coil surface with water before applying the coil cleaning solution. This helps the coil cleaner work better.
8. Liberally apply the prepared coil cleaner solution to the coil.
9. Allow the cleaner to “work” for 5 to 7 minutes.
10. Assess area for rinsing to insure that the flow of rinse will not present problems.
11. Thoroughly rinse the cleaner from the coil and rinse the surrounding area, roof etc.
12. When used according to instructions, the appropriately selected Nu-Calgon coil cleaners will not harm rubber roofs.
13. Always rinse empty coil cleaner bottle, cap tightly and dispose of properly.



B. Additional Hints & Helpful Tips

1. Indoor Coils

- a) Do not use a condenser coil cleaner on an evaporator coil unless the coil is removed and cleaned outdoors. The reason for this is that any of the following could be problematic:
 - Fumes entering the duct & premises
 - Necessity of rinsing with high volumes of water
 - Type of foaming that is characteristic of condenser coil cleaners
 - Aggressive nature of condenser coil cleaners
- b) ALWAYS provide for proper ventilation when cleaning indoor evaporator coils.
- c) Some extreme environments, such as restaurant kitchens (food grease), hair salons, (hair spray), or pet grooming facilities may require the use of coil cleaners to cut these stubborn deposits. Consideration of the above points should be taken prior to application.

2. Importance of Rinsing

When cleaning condenser coils, especially where heavy foaming solutions are present, it is very important to take the time to thoroughly rinse the coil, equipment, and surroundings. Many condenser coil cleaners can be aggressive products, and residual left behind can be corrosive. Coils must be thoroughly rinsed from the bottom of the equipment and all other surrounding metal surfaces. Never walk away from a pile of foam, whether on a roof surface or in a bed of plants or flowers.

3. Rooftop Coil Cleaning

When cleaning coils on a rooftop, pay attention to surrounding area, rooftop materials, wind, etc. Wind can blow cleaning solution off the roof surface potentially damaging people, vehicles, etc. Also, many coil cleaners may not be completely compatible with roofing materials. Conversely, other coil cleaners may be fine so long as the cleaner & rinse solution are not allowed to remain in contact for extended time. And in addition to the type of cleaner used, the quality of the roofing can contribute to problems. For example, galvanizing that used inferior zinc plating may show effect of coil cleaners. When in doubt, use a coil cleaner that is only mildly alkaline.

4. Cleaning Near Asphalt

Many condenser coil cleaners are highly alkaline, and they can dry or discolor asphalt, particularly if the asphalt was not sealed or properly cured. Rinse thoroughly and completely. Do not allow pooling.

5. Special “Tricks of the Trade”

- a) Hot water, when available, can be helpful with every aspect of coil cleaning (mixing, rinsing, etc.). Hot water can also allow the user to further dilute the cleaning solution and still achieve desired results (6:1 or 7:1 with hot water might achieve same results as 3:1 dilution).
- b) Pre-Rinse the Coil & Equipment prior to application of cleaning solution. Remove any loose debris from the coil surface with a vacuum, compressed air or nitrogen, brush or even pre-rinse. A pre-rinse will enhance emulsification of cleaning solution improving time and results.

6. Proper Procedure for Discarding Coil Cleaner Containers

- a) Only use coil cleaners that come in containers with complete use directions and child proof caps.
- b) After contents of coil cleaner container are emptied, thoroughly rinse the container with water, replace child-proof cap, and dispose of properly.
- c) Never leave empty coil cleaner containers at a job site. Either dispose of sealed empty container in with recyclables or refuse at the contractor’s place of business.

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)

Retain MSDS sheets on products being used as a precaution. Keep them in truck.

