

The NFPA recommends that fire dampers be tested periodically.

These dampers are an essential part of the fire protection system in a building. Owners should develop a greater awareness of the life and property protecting abilities of these systems and establish a planned maintenance schedule. Failure to maintain proper conditions of cleanliness in air duct systems and carelessness with repair operations have been important contributing causes of several fires that have involved air conditioning systems. The following recommendations apply, in general, to year round operation of the system; systems operating only part of the year should be given a thorough general checkup before starting operation and again after shutting down.

The maintenance interval will vary widely depending on duration of system operation, condition of fresh air, amount of dust in return air, and other factors. The intervals given are intended to be maximum and should be shortened if system conditions warrant. Consult your local building code to verify whether there is a required maintenance schedule.

1. Each damper should be inspected at least every two years to see that it is not rusted or blocked by an obstruction of any kind, which could interfere with the operation of the blades. Clean off any dirt build-up on blades and tracks.
2. Lubricate fire damper blade tracks with a dry lubricant (such as T.F.E. Dry Lube) if necessary. Never use a regular lubricating oil on dampers, as it will attract dirt and grit.
3. Disconnect fusible link and release blades to verify that they fully close. Caution should be exercised with spring loaded dampers in order to avoid physical injury. Reset blades and reattach fusible link.



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