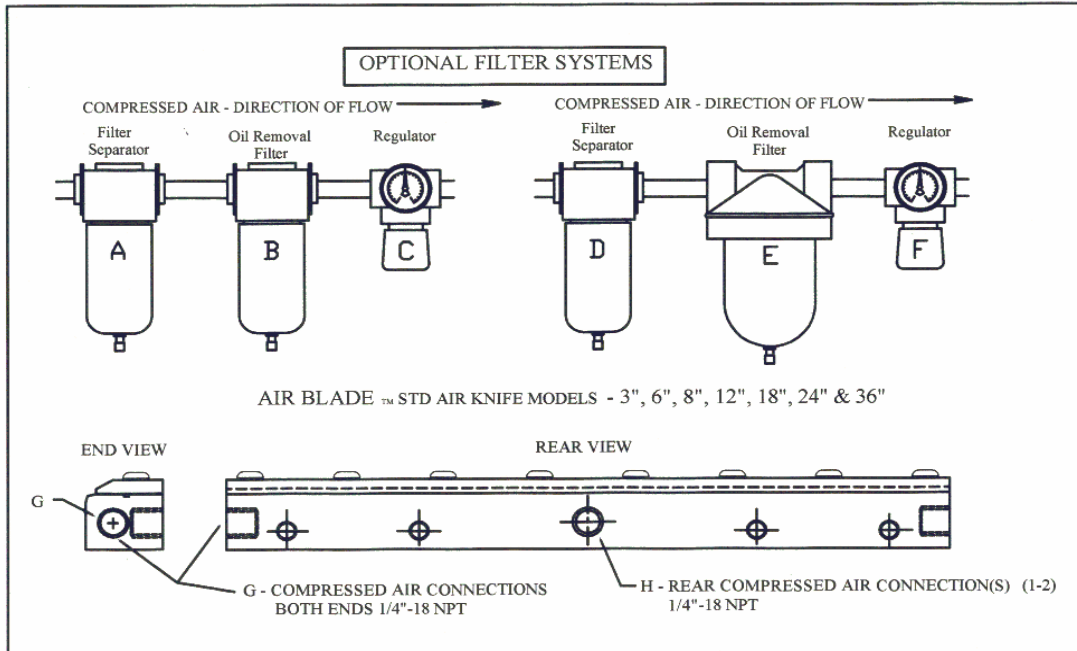


Leading Technology Into The Future
NEX FLOW™

AIR BLADE™ AIR KNIFE INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE



INSTALLATION AND SIZE OF COMPRESSED AIR LINES

It is important to keep airline sizes large enough to minimize pressure an Air Blade™ air knife or series of them connected together to produce a longer length of airflow.

Air Blade™ air knives may be connected end to end by using the rear entry ports instead of the end ports to “butt” together for continuous flow at longer lengths. In this situation, a “manifold” can then feed each of the air knives via the rear ports.

When possible, it is best to supply the air into the Air Blade™ Air Knives at the ends (ports labelled G). For longer lengths of 24” and longer, it is best to feed both ends. When using rear ports (ports labelled H), always feed into each port if there is more than one. There are mounting holes at the rear to assist in mounting if pipe cannot be used. Similarly, when using a Shim” to increase the gap size, always feed at both ends when end feeding.

The following table indicates recommended pipe sizes for various “total” lengths of Air Blade™ Air Knives. For hoses, increase the recommend size by one size larger than what is shown.

TOTAL AIR KNIFE LENGTH	MINIMUM PIPE SIZES FOR VARIOUS MANIFOLD LENGTHS			
	MANIFOLD SIZE	SIZE OF INFEEED PIPE AND LENGTH OF RUN		
Up to 6”	Not Applic.	10’ 1/4”	50’ 3/8”	100’ 1/2”
Over 6” to 12”	Not Applic.	3/8”	1/2”	3/4”
Over 12” to 24”	Not Applic.	1/2”	3/4”	1”
Over 24” to 36”	Not Applic.	3/4”	1”	1-14”
Over 36” to 60”	1”	1”	1-14”	1-1/4”
Over 60” to 84”	1”	1”	1-14”	1-12”
Over 84” to 102”	1-14”	1-14”	1-14”	1-1/2”
Over 102” to 120”	1-14”	1-14”	1-1/2”	2”

CARE OF THE COMPRESSED AIR SUPPLY

Because Air Blade™ Air Knives utilize a small “gap” for the air outlet, it is important to keep the air lines free of moisture, oil and dirt. Keep out dirt and the units will run virtually maintenance free.

For water removal, a minimum 10 micron filter complete with an automatic (float type) drain is recommended (item labelled A for small air knives and D for larger air knives). It should be sized to handle the total airflow of the Air Blade™ Air Knives at the pressure they will be used. If oil could be a concern, an oil removal filter (labelled B for small air knives and E for larger lengths) should be added downstream from the water removal filter and should also have an automatic (float type) drain. Again, they should be sized to handle the total flow of the Air Blade™ Air Knives. Filters should be mounted near any Air Blade™ Air Knife system, typically within 10 to 15 feet.

USING THE AIR BLADE™ AIR KNIVES, CONTROLLING FORCE, AND AIR SAVING.

In many cases to Air Blade™ Air Knives can either be supported by the compressed air supply piping or, by using the mounting holes at the rear to mount into a customer supplied bracket.

It is best to keep the blow off target within 12” of the Air Blade™ Air Knife as force decreases rapidly after that. The built-in “gap” in the Air Blade is .002”. To increase the force you can add a .002” shim, thereby doubling the gap, by removing the “cap” and installing the shim under the cap, then re-bolting the cap to the Air Blade body. This will increase mass flow, velocity and force but also increase air consumption so care must be taken to insure proper airline size. For the line size chart, if you add the shim, assume the doubling of the Air Blade™ Air Knife length to size piping and manifolds.

By moving the Air Blade™ Air Knife toward or away from the target, an optimum distance for operation can be found. To decrease force, a regulator (labelled C for small lengths and F for larger lengths) may be added and simply reduce the pressure to reduce the force required.

To conserve compressed air, it is best to use a regulator to reduce the pressure to the point where the Air Blade™ Air Knife still performs as it must, but by minimizing compressed air use by utilizing the air at a lower pressure. The Air Blades are especially ideal for applications where intermittent blow off is required. A sensor or timer can have the compressed go on and off to the Air Blade system as required utilizing a solenoid valve. Energy is only consumed when the unit is operating.

CLEANING & TROUBLESHOOTING

If the Air Blade™ Air Knife does get clogged from contamination dismantle the unit, clean, and re-assemble. Care should be taken to re-install the wire o-ring prior to putting the two pieces (body and cap) and possibly an added shim, back together. Sometimes a build up of a dirty film can occur on the outside face of the Air Blade™ Air Knife from vapor in the surrounding atmosphere. Clean the surface using mild solvent and clean rag. To prevent contaminants from getting pushed back into the Air Blade™ Air Knife gap, clean with a small amount of compressed air passing through the unit.

If the force or flow seems to be below normal, install a pressure gage near the inlet of the Air Blade™ Air Knife. If the pressure is low, it may be due to undersized airlines, perhaps restrictive fittings, or from clogged filter elements. These things should be checked, in particular the fittings used and the filter elements.

For further support, please contact:

NEX FLOW AIR PRODUCTS CORP.

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NEX FLOW™

toll free tel: (877) 797-2777 Fax: (877) 797-2660

web site: www.nex-flow.com E-Mail: sales@nex-flow.com

International tel: (416) 410-1313 Fax: (416) 410-1806