

All You Ever Wanted To Know About Fire Damper Testing

What Are Fire Dampers?



Fire dampers are crucial, passive fire protection products used in heating, ventilation, and air conditioning ducts to prevent the spread of fire inside the ductwork through fire-resistance rated walls and floors.

How Do They Work?



In the event of a rise in temperature, the fire damper closes, usually activated by a thermal element. This melts at temperatures higher than ambient but low enough to indicate the presence of a fire, allowing springs and gravity to close the damper blades.

They can also close following receipt of an electrical signal from a fire alarm system utilising detectors remote from the damper, indicating the sensing of heat or smoke in the building occupied spaces or in the duct system.

Why Are They Important?



By providing a barrier beyond which the fire cannot pass, effective fire dampers save lives; so regular fire damper testing (known as drop testing) as well as fire damper cleaning and maintenance is both a legal requirement and a critical part of building fire safety management.

Why Do I Have To Have Them Tested?



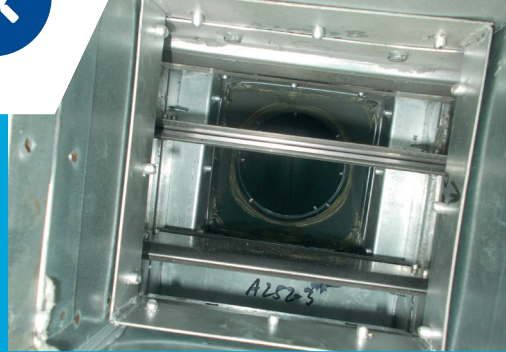
Through normal use of the ventilation system, a build-up of contamination gathers on the fire damper and its operational parts. This must be removed and the fire damper tested regularly to ensure that it operates as designed, should a fire occur. This is a legal requirement.

Where Are They Located?



Swiftclean can identify and locate each fire damper for you if you have no drawings or previous reports.

What Do They Look Like?



How Can Swiftclean Help Me?



Swiftclean is one of the UK's leading Duct Cleaning & Legionella Risk Experts offering a fire damper testing, cleaning and maintenance service, in accordance with BS 9999:2017. We will:

- ✓ Identify and locate each fire damper
- ✓ Retrofit access doors if any of these are inaccessible
- ✓ Carry out fire damper testing, cleaning and reset each fire damper
- ✓ Provide accurate records of fire damper testing and cleaning including before and after photographs
- ✓ Identify any problems and recommend remedial action
- ✓ Carry out remedial work where required
- ✓ In hospitals and care homes, help the client to agree a regular testing interval with the local fire prevention officer
- ✓ Keep you legally compliant

What's The Law?



Regular fire/smoke damper testing (known as drop testing) as well as fire/smoke damper cleaning and maintenance is both a legal requirement and a critical part of building fire safety management. BS 9999:2017 is the guidance document that specifies that all fire dampers should be drop tested, cleaned and maintained at least every year.

In a healthcare setting, additional care is needed, so it is important to comply with Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 03-01: Specialised ventilation for healthcare premises Part B: Operational management and performance verification.

The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (RRFSO), sets out the legal duties, the BS and HTM documents help the responsible person with guidance to comply.