



HVAC Tech Note #11 – December 2003

Terminal Unit Piping

There are some simple rules that should be followed when piping terminal units in hydronic systems that use fluid:

Pipe flow from the bottom up so that the water flow carries the air out of the terminal unit; especially important if the water flow passages are large and the water velocity is low, as in heat exchanger shells.

Pipe so that the heating/heated mediums are hot-to-hot and cold-to-cold; for coils, easy to remember as air in/water out. This will maintain the highest average temperature difference between the mediums and allow the terminal to perform at design. This is particularly important for chilled water coils.

When multiple terminals are in parallel, as with stacked coil banks, ensure equal flow through each individual terminal with piping design or flow balancing devices.

Here's hoping that the whole world, you included, has a better year in 2004!

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