



HVAC Tech Note #7 – June 2003

Automatic Air Vents

Automatic air vents are only truly effective when installed on an air separation device. Air gets carried along in a piping system by water velocity; air separators slow the water down to release the air and get it out of the system. When an automatic air vent is installed in the piping where water velocity is high, the air will get carried right past the vent. These vents will likely only release air when the pump is off. Since almost all automatic air vents will eventually leak, installing a lot of them usually only creates maintenance problems.

Use manual air vents at the high spots for initial purging, and a good quality industrial air vent on the air separator. If automatic vents are used at high spots to make the initial venting easier, they should be valved off during normal operation to avoid potential leaks. This will also prevent them from allowing air to enter the system if it should go sub-atmospheric for any reason.

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