How To Clean Industrial Heat Exchangers

Match your cleaning method to the size and design of your heat exchanger.

For a Dramatic ‘Before’ and ‘After’

It's easy to forget about heat exchangers. Perhaps half of all manufacturing heat exchangers are ignored until they have problems. By the time these workhorses complain they can be so caked with deposits that you need to drill into the tubes to clean them. Well designed maintenance routines and the proper equipment help you clean heat exchanger tubes quickly and regularly, minimizing your risk of costly breakdowns. Choose the right rotary tube cleaner or an effective chemical cleaning system, and the job's done in no time.

Choose Your Cleaning System

- The RAM-5SFVS rotary tube cleaner quickly cleans large heat exchangers.
- The PSM-500 tube cleaning drill clears out straight small-diameter tubes.
- It’s easiest to descale U-shaped tubes with a chemical descaling system. Or use a rotary tube cleaner and clean half of the “U” with each pass.

Mechanical Cleaning

- Assess your heat exchanger to determine the cleaning system best suited to its design and size (see box above).
- Power down the heat exchanger and drain any liquid.
- ID the deposits in your tubes. A video scope gives you inside intel so you know what you’re up against.
- Using the RAM-5SFVS or the PSM-500, run through a few tubes and evaluate results with your scope.
- Adjust technique as needed and finish cleaning.
- Spot check, clean up and put the equipment back online.

Chemical Cleaning

- “Loop off” the heat exchanger from its water source.
- Use a descaling system to circulate ScaleBreak through your unit. A Goodway rep can help you choose the best system for your heat exchanger.
- Run the descaler for about an hour, then check to see whether descaling is complete. You will know that the scale is gone when the pH of the solution rises and/or the ScaleBreak stops foaming.
- Clear out ScaleBreak; put the heat exchanger back online.

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