

Combatting COVID-19: Duct Cleaning & Seniors



"While air duct cleaning can be incorporated into COVID-19 response procedures, the EPA has strict rules regarding which products can be used in HVAC systems. It is also at this time not clear that the HVAC or air conveyance system plays a role in the spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus, and the inclusion of HVAC cleaning and decontamination therefore may not be necessary."

Source- RIA Preliminary Report for Restoration Contractors Assisting Clients With COVID-19 Concerns - March 19, 2020

What does this mean? As always, we need to be aware what is actually a health benefit and/or recommended and what is not. Duct cleaning is an essential part of a comprehensive cleaning and maintenance plan for any home or establishment. However, at this time, duct cleaning is not an essential part of remediating for Covid-19. The main parts of the Covid-19 remediation process includes cleaning touchpoint surfaces and working to reduce aerosol particles. Cleaning touchpoints cleaning and applying disinfectant to commonly touched surfaces. The reduction of aerosols particles can immediately make one think of duct cleaning. For the remediation process, HEPA vacuum and use HEPA air filtration devices to help remove particles from recent occupants as well as

anything disturbed during the cleaning process. The virus is not constantly free floating in the air. It has weight and will land. It is typically only in the air for the distance and duration from someone breathing, coughing, and sneezing. This is why the CDC is asking everyone to keep 6 feet apart. This distance provides the needed space to reduce spread from being cough or sneezed on, which is a known way the virus spreads. We recommend duct cleaning every 12-18 months for homes with pets and every 2-3 years for homes without pets. Duct cleaning for Covid-19 must be viewed with caution as not all chemicals are safe for HVAC systems, only trained firms should perform duct cleaning, and should have valid reason for incorporating into remediation plan.

Important Note- Active Adult and Senior Living Communities are often preyed upon by companies looking to "upsell" services for "health benefits". These predatory tactics will likely increase dramatically over the next few months as businesses look to profit or simply stay afloat during this pandemic. It's important to use NADCA, IICRC, or RSA certified firms. It is also important to ask questions if you are unsure about promised health benefits and do your research. Currently, there is nothing on the market "specifically" designed for Covid-19 and most current products are reasonably effective in killing viruses when used correctly.

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