

Frankly Speaking: Your Coach HVAC Could Use a Bath

By Frank Ormonde, Technical Solutions Manager, MCI



Cleanliness is next to godliness they say, and that saying is never truer than when it comes to your coach's heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning (HVAC) system. Airflow is critical both inside and out of the motorcoach, and it takes more than just a filter change to ensure high-quality airflow.

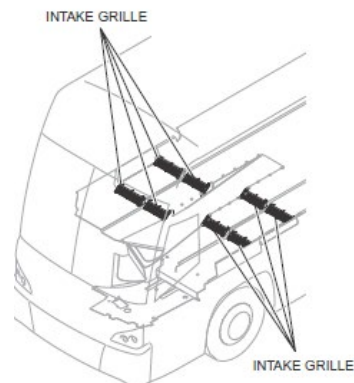
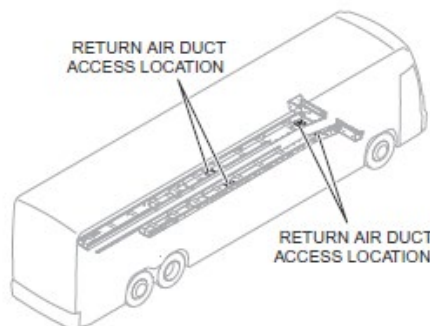
To optimize your HVAC airflow, follow these maintenance and operation tips to avoid putting extra strain on your system.

- 1. Clean Your Coils.** Part of your quarterly maintenance plan should include washing all the coils on the coach, including the two parcel rack evaporators, condenser, main evaporator, and driver's evaporator. Low-pressure, high-volume water works best and avoids damaging the delicate coils. You can also use a non-acid-based cleaner that will also add a fresh smell to the coach.
- 2. Clear Your Ducts.** Ensure the HVAC's drain tubes are not clogged, and the rubber duck bills located under the coach are present and in good shape. The return ducts located at the front and rear of the coach also need regular cleaning.



This driver evaporator needs a cleaning!

MCI TIP: Instruct the cleaning crew to shut the HVAC system off while cleaning the interior of the coach on a regular basis. This will help prevent debris from entering these ducts in the first place.



Your coach needs clean ducts to move air through the HVAC system.

- 3. Check the Compressor Seal.** Did you know the Bitzer compressor requires at least 250 running hours before the seal is considered broken in? Keeping the HVAC compressor clean and the oil collection drain tube clear will help you better monitor the actual condition of the seal.
- 4. Operate Your Coach Properly:** Outside air infiltration at highway speeds can overwhelm even a properly operating HVAC system. Keeping items like entrance doors and windows properly adjusted will keep this at a minimum. Proper operation of the fresh air damper located in the spare tire compartment is critical in this aspect and can be tested via relay test mode available in diagnostics.
- 5. Want more information?** Refer to the MCI Maintenance Manual for your specific coach model and year or call the MCI Technical Call center at 800-241-2947 with specific questions.

For more maintenance tips, check out our [Maintenance Toolkit](#) collection.