



Winterizing Your Air System

The following process covers the basic steps needed for good preventative maintenance and will help get you through the cold winter months with fewer malfunctions. There are variations in air system designs which might effect this process. Please review your vehicle manufacturers' recommended practices for deviations.

AIR COMPRESSOR

1. It is normal for most compressors to pass a little oil. If you constantly have to replace your air dryer desiccant cartridge you may have excessive oil passage. Air dryer effectiveness and air system performance decline quickly as oil is passed into the desiccant cartridge. Check your wet tank for moisture and other contaminants. This should be done at least every 3 months. If you see sludge in your wet tanks, oil is getting through the air dryer into the downstream air system. Refer to the compressor manufacturer's oil passage tests and replace as recommended.



2. Check your compressor discharge line for restrictions including carbon at the compressor outlet. If you see carbon, replace the line. Carbon build up is an indicator of excessive oil passage.



3. Check your compressor discharge line to ensure there is a constant downward slope to the air dryer. See Tectran's Tec Bulletin **TB-AD1** or **TB-AD2** for a more detailed explanation. While these bulletins are applicable to specific dryer models, this step can be universally applied to all air systems. All Tectran Tec Bulletins can be found at www.tectran.com under the Resource Center tab at the top of the Home page.



4. Change the air governor. The air governor functions as the on/off control for the air dryer purge function.

AIR DRYER

5. Desiccant cartridge life can be from 3 months to 3 years based on compressor oil passage and duty cycle. For best results, if your dryer design gives you direct access to the desiccant cartridge, replace it every autumn. With this design, it's fast & easy to replace the cartridge to avoid "truck down" issues when it gets the extremely cold. If you are using a design where you have to dis-assemble the dryer to replace the cartridge, the inspection of the wet tank will be your guide. When in doubt, always replace the cartridge. Remember the performance of downstream air system components is dependent on clean, dry air. Most fleets replace desiccant cartridges every year.



6. The purge area of the air dryer is susceptible to malfunction because of the contaminants that pass through it. If your truck has high air usage or if you replace desiccant cartridges often then autumn is also a good time to replace the purge valve.

7. Check the air dryer heater; A) for proper voltage to the heater, B) that it is properly grounded, most commonly to the frame rail and C) that it is functioning properly.



8. If your vehicle uses an alcohol injector/evaporator, fill it up with approved air brake anti-freeze. Typically, these are not needed in today's air systems using air dryers but they can be a good supplement to the air dryer in colder climates. Never add air brake anti-freeze directly into air lines.





AIR TANKS

9. Inspect all manual drain valves. These are inexpensive and easy access so when in doubt replace. If you use automatic drain valves make sure they are functioning properly. Automatic drain valves expel contaminants from the tank and are highly susceptible to malfunction. Many fleets replace them every autumn.

10. Check the full air system for excess air leakage. Refer again to the Tec Bulletins **TB-AD1** or **TB-AD2**, one of the last steps is a simple universal process.

TRACTOR/TRAILER CONNECTIONS

11. Check your air coils for abrasions, damage or signs of kinking, especially at the end connections. Replace as needed. Install gladhand grip handles such as Tectran's FLEX-Grips to reduce kinking and extend the life of your air lines. If you encounter extremely cold temperatures, consider using one of Tectran's Armor coated line of products. To eliminate tangled aircoils switch to a 3-in-One AirPower Line with a tender kit.

12. Inspect your connection suspension devices behind the cab. Items such as tender kits, clamps, hanger brackets, hose springs, and pogo sticks should be replaced if worn or damaged.

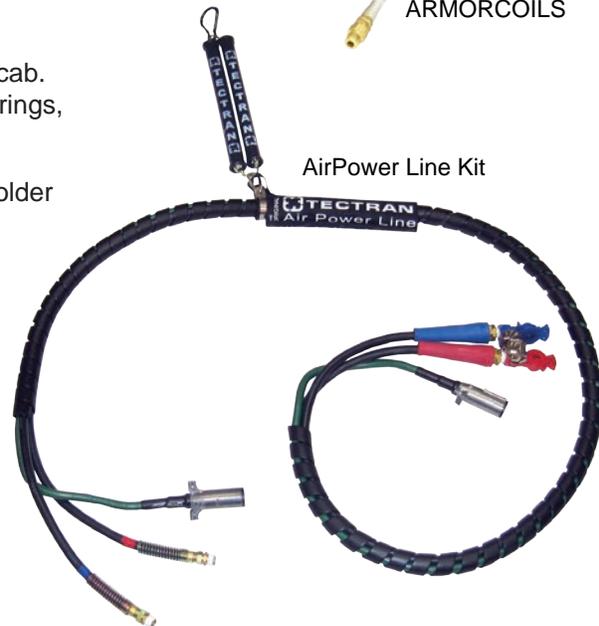
13. Examine your electrical cable, replace as needed. If in colder climates consider replacements that are rated to the lowest temperatures such as Tectran's ArticFlex cable.

14. Replace all gladhand seals and filter screens. Use polyurethane seals for longer life. If you don't have filter screens, consider upgrading to gladhand seals with built-in filters to keep additional contaminants out of the system especially when not coupled.

15. Inspect your gladhands. If corrosion is evident consider replacing your gladhands with Anodized gladhands. Tectran's Anodized Gladhands provide superior corrosion resistance which is a great cold weather addition to your system!



ARMORCOILS



AirPower Line Kit



Anodized Gladhands



Polyurethane Seals with filters



FLEX-Grips