

In response to the White Paper “Effects of Negative Air Duct Cleaning on Flex Ducting” I would make the argument that the duct cleaning process helps identify areas where flex duct has otherwise been damaged or disconnected more so than creating the situation.

I have been involved in duct cleaning since 1996 and a member of NADCA since 1998 and have both cleaned and/or been a part of the cleaning of probably tens of thousands linear feet of flex ducting. Often ventilation systems were never commissioned correctly, and many times defects have been there since the original installation. A thorough duct cleaning project touches just about every inch of ductwork. If flex duct was of an age where it might become degraded through the cleaning, even if that was not identified through the original inspection, it should be then determined that replacing flex duct, instead of cleaning, would then be part of the overall solution. This, however, is rarely the case.

ACR, The NADCA Standard (2021), is a guide for a successful assessment, cleaning, and restoration of HVAC Systems. Carefully following this document will ensure that an HVAC system will be left in better condition than it was found.

In my experience the duct cleaning process has not been responsible for compromising flex duct. For the past 35 years The National Air Duct Cleaners Association (NADCA) has been dedicated to the restoration of ventilation systems. Many methods and processes have changed as we continue to evolve in the industry. Certainly, if over the past 35 years, with duct cleaning happening throughout the world, this issue would have presented itself in the field, where actual duct cleaning takes place, and that it would have been addressed, and new guidelines would exist around the proper cleaning, restoration and/or replacing of flex duct.

Regards,

Tyler Batchelder, ASCS, CVI
NADCA Board of Directors
Colchester, VT