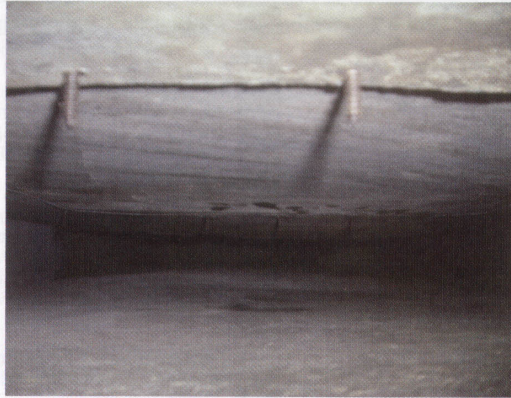


**“Poor maintenance of ventilation systems leads to problems with airborne bacteria, uncomfortable humidity levels — too high or too low — and inefficient energy consumption”**

wet coils), humidifiers and surrounds, fan-coil units, fire dampers, internal insulation, floor/ceiling plena, induction units and filters.

A thorough approach is absolutely essential, but some maintenance firms will issue cleaning certificates even if they have only carried out a partial clean. This is not good practice. End users should ensure they are using competent hygiene maintenance firms which can provide



**Deposits in ductwork do not build up overnight, indicating long periods without cleaning.**

proper evidence of their skills and give the user proof they have carried out a full, deep clean.

The Heating & Ventilating Contractors' Association (HVCA) provides a Guide to Good Practice (TR/19) 'Internal cleanliness of ventilation systems'. It gives comprehensive information about how ventilation systems should be cleaned and how to set up a planned hygiene maintenance programme.

This guide should be used as the basis for any remedial and on-going maintenance programme to ensure ductwork provides an acceptable level of ventilation and removes both health and fire risks.

This is not rocket science. Much of it is the application of common sense — but it is a fundamental issue that goes right to the heart of making a building fit for purpose and, also, sustainable.

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