What Causes Nozzle Blockage?

The fog/mist nozzle has a microscopic 0.008” (0.02 mm) orifice which creates a fine fogging mist. However, many untreated water sources used to create this mist contain mineral deposits that can block nozzles. If residual water in the nozzle line is allowed to stand and not drain, nozzles will drip. The dripping water droplets will evaporate, leaving behind deposits that can block the small orifice on the nozzle tip.

Draining nozzle lines should become part of your regular maintenance schedule. In addition, periodic nozzle and anti-drip valve cleaning will help prevent major problems and will keep your system running smoothly and efficiently.

Cleaning Nozzles

Cleaning procedures should occur when the fog system is running so that results can be determined with an immediate visual inspection. Eye protection should be worn at all times.

A majority of mineral deposits can be removed from nozzle tips using a wire wheel (part# VTB0002) or stiff wire brush (part# VTB0001). If these methods are unsuccessful, use the orifice cleaning tool (part# TKT0002). This tool has a 0.007” stainless steel wire that can be inserted into the 0.008” orifice hole to dislodge any obstruction.

Nozzles can also be removed from the nozzle line and soaked in white table vinegar (*see note below for brass nozzles). The vinegar solution dissolves most of the mineral build-up and allows the nozzle to spray freely. If however, the nozzle remains blocked after using these 4 cleaning methods, it may have foreign debris lodged in the inlet which requires nozzle replacement.

When to Flush Nozzle Lines

When changing water filters on the pump module, great care should be taken so that dirty water or sediment from the filter bowls does not spill into the nozzle lines. When changing nozzles, replacing drain valves or opening the system in any other way, all manifolds and nozzle lines should be flushed to eliminate any foreign debris from entering the nozzle.

*Brass nozzles should never be soaked in strong chemicals such as CLR or Lime-A-Way® as it may deteriorate the brass components.