

Maximize Performance & Profitability with a Superior Tube Plugging Solution

There are quite a few options when the need arises to plug a tube in a heat exchanger. Whether the reason is preventive or due to a major leak, selecting the wrong plug could lead to costly ramifications down the road. A failed or leaking tube plug at the very least can cause chemistry headaches. Out of specification water chemistry needs to be addressed and the long-term effects of compensating for even a small leak can add up financially over time, by either the cost of added chemicals or premature corrosion of equipment or piping. Larger leaks have a much quicker impact on performance, as the unit will most likely need to be shut down for a period of time while repairs are made.

Pop-A-Plug® Tube Plugs were designed with these factors in mind to prevent costly maintenance and/or downtime caused by leaking and/or failed heat exchanger tubes. Leak tested up to 7000 PsiG depending on plug selection, Pop-A-Plug Tube Plugs are a permanent leak-tight solution for use in a variety of heat exchangers. The plugs meet ASME PCC-2* recommendations and EPRI** criteria.

Non-metallic plugs such as elastomer and polymer are often used as a quick or temporary fix for leaking tubes. More recently, however, the industry has been shifting to the understanding that these plugs are only a temporary solution. The material can harden over time and lose the ability to seal effectively. In addition, any excursion that may cause the tubes to pressurize will tend to eject the plugs, nullifying the reason for plugging to begin with. Some permanent metallic plugs, also known as tapered pins, hammer-in or welded plugs can damage the tube and tubesheet when installing or cannot be removed once installed. In these cases, the tube is condemned and cannot be reclaimed if future testing determines the tube is still functional.

In addition to maintaining a leak-tight seal throughout the life of the unit, Pop-A-Plug Tube Plugs may also be removed, causing no damage to the tube itself. Pop-A-Plug Tube Plugs are available in a wide variety of materials to match the metallurgy of installed tubes. As a result, there is no concern over dissimilar metals

or premature corrosion failure from using the wrong type of plug. Additionally, there is no welding required, minimizing the time to install and the amount of potential exposure to personnel.

With an increased focus on maintaining plant chemistry and minimizing downtime, the industry is taking a closer look at potential risk factors to that strategy. This is where Pop-A-Plug Tube Plugs excel and can take the guesswork out of tube plugging, and help keep the plant running at peak performance.

For more information, visit cw-estgroup.com. Contact us at est-sales@curtisswright.com or call 877.238.3092 to speak with one of EST Group's Product Experts today!

* Inspection and Repair of Shell and Tube Heat Exchangers, The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) PCC-2, Article 312.

** Condenser In-Leakage Guideline, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Palo Alto, CA, 2000, TR-112819 Page 7.

Pop-A-Plug® Tube Plugging System



Eliminate Forced Outages

As the industry's leading engineered tube leak solution, **Pop-A-Plug Tube Plugs** from Curtiss-Wright provide unmatched performance in critical heat transfer equipment, including feedwater heaters and condensers. Trusted by nuclear power plants around the world, Pop-A-Plug Tube Plugs meet all guidelines contained in EPRI's Condenser In-Leakage Report, and conform to ASME PCC-2 recommended tube plugging repair methods. Full material traceability documentation available.

With nearly a century of engineering excellence behind them, Pop-A-Plug Tube Plugs provide unmatched reliability for maximum HX system performance.

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