

Kitchen Grease Extract – Access Panels Guidance

Section 7 of TR/19 Second Edition (Specific Considerations for Kitchen Extract Systems) provides specific guidance to the location of access panels (or doors) to kitchen grease extract systems for inspection purposes. Please see table below.

Section 7.22 Access panels should be fitted on either side of in-line components, as detailed in Table 9, to allow physical entry to clean these intricate surfaces. This Table includes components, such as fire dampers and attenuators, which are not normally recommended to be installed, but are often found in practice.

Table 9: Location of Access Panels for Cleaning and Inspection Purposes	
Volume Control Dampers	Both sides
Fire Dampers	Both sides (see Note 7)
Attenuators	Both sides
Changes in Direction	Both sides
Filter Sections	Both sides
Horizontal Ducts	Generally 3m centres (see Note 2)
Risers	Maximum 3m centres (see Note 3)
Extract Fans	Both sides (see Note 4)
Discharge Grille/Mesh	One side (see Note 6)

Notes to Table 9

1. Additional builders work hatches may need to be fitted in ceilings/walls in existing installations, or provided for in new constructions. These would not be provided by the cleaning contractor unless a separately specified cost is provided.
2. Access openings for cleaning purposes are generally required at a maximum of 3 metre centres and/or at each change of direction where head and shoulder access is possible. This distance should be reduced where the size of the duct prevents adequate cleaning by hand, where there are several changes in direction or where other external features restrict the positioning of panels.

3. Internal kitchen extract risers often require access panels fitted at maximum 3 metre centres on each floor level so that all internal surfaces can be reached and fire dampers, where fitted, cleaned and checked. In some buildings this may require additional builders works (e.g. hatches through brickwork) to reach the riser ducts (see note 1 above and 7.17). The exception to this may be if abseil cleaning is practicable, where specialist advice should be sought. In such cases it may be possible to reduce the required quantity of access panels.
4. Extract fan design should allow thorough cleaning of impellor blades and internal surfaces without the need for dismantling, i.e. ductwork with access panels should be provided immediately upstream and downstream. Larger fans should be designed with panels in the casing. Similarly, attenuators or other in-line fittings likely to obscure cleaning activity should be provided with access on both sides.
5. Guideline access frequency given above may be reduced where safe personnel entry can be adequately applied. However, in all instances every section of ductwork should be capable of verification inspection.
6. Design consideration should be given to the provision of safe access to the downstream side of discharge grilles, bird guard mesh and louvers.
7. Fire dampers should not be fitted in new installations in accordance with BS5588, but may still be found in older systems.
8. The designer should clearly specify the locations, sizes and responsibility for access door installation to facilitate regular access for fire safety cleaning.

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