



# **A CHECKLIST FOR MEASURING HVAC COILS**

## **1. Smaller is always better than bigger**

If you're unsure about an exact dimension, it's always better to underestimate than overestimate. The main thing is fitting the coil into the space. If there's still a little room, you can always "safe off" around any coil. Too big is the enemy of measuring coils!

## **2. Coil measurements are more than just the fin height and fin length**

While it's good to know as many measurements as you can, it's a common misconception that fin height and length are the determining factors in measuring a coil. In reality, the casing dimensions are the most critical measurements. Once you have this, you can work backward to determine the fin dimensions.

## **3. Fit > Performance**

It may sound counterintuitive, but performance has little to do with accurately measuring for replacement coils. Getting the right fit is more important. Keep in mind that a new coil will often outperform the old coil, even if the finned area is slightly reduced.

## **4. Depth vs. Height**

Coil depth is measured by its casing depth in the direction of airflow. Coil height is measured by the number of tubes high in any row. Depth is a function of rows deep, while height is a function of tubes in a row.

## **5. Properly Measure Connections**

You can measure connections from the top of the casing to the centerline, or from the bottom to the centerline. Contrary to popular belief, connections are not measured from the top of the header!

## **6. Finding OAL (Overall Length)**

People are often confused about what the overall length is. It's not the fin length, nor is it the casing length. A unit's OAL is the length from the return bends to the headers inside the unit. Once you know this critical measurement, you can work backward to determine the other dimensions.

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