

**BulkTobac**

A DIVISION OF **GAS-FIRED PRODUCTS, INC.**

305 Doggett Street, P.O. Box 36485

Charlotte, NC 28236

Phone: (704) 372-3485

Toll Free: (800) 830 3983

Fax: (704) 332-5843

To: Roanoke HeatX Conversion Kit Owners

From: Martin Brice

Date: June 9th, 2003

Subject: HeatX FIRE HAZARD WARNING

I am writing this memo to remind you of previous fire hazard warnings. This memo includes how to inspect your barn and how to ensure that you have protected your barn against potential known fire hazards.

A. CHECK THAT THE FLEXIBLE GAS CONNECTOR HAS BEEN REPLACED BETWEEN THE MANIFOLD AND THE BURNER.

Please check and make sure that the flexible gas connector on your HeatX conversion kits has been replaced per the attached Gas Connector Identification Sheet. (Form B-938). The reason the gas connector must be replaced is because the flexible connector manufacturer informed us that excessive vibration can result in failure of their connector. We have conducted extensive testing to determine that the vibration on certain models of barn (principally BulkTobac and Long) can lead to failure of the connector. **In the interest of safety, regardless of the model of barn, the flexible metal connector must be replaced on all HeatX units.** We have tested and approved a new copper connector assembly to replace the flexible stainless steel connector between the control arm and the burner (see the attached illustration to assist with identification). The connector is available at no charge. The replacement process takes approximately 10 minutes per barn. In order to get a new connector Simply fill out the enclosed postage paid reply card and mail it to us. It is important that both the quantity of HeatX units and the style of barn are indicated on the reply card.

When we receive the card we will send you the replacement connectors and replacement warning labels for the HeatX units.

To avoid duplicate shipments, Gas Connector kits will only be shipped to the actual owner of the HeatX Heat Exchanger Conversion Kits and NOT to Gas Companies or Installing Dealers.

Copies of the warning labels are enclosed with this notice. (Form B-937)

NOTE: Please read the warning labels carefully, if you have any questions regarding the warnings and how to comply with them, please call customer service.

B. CHECK FOR GAS LEAKS

It is important on start up and at least on an annual basis that all pipe fittings and joints in the gas train and all gas connections are checked for leaks. This is for your safety. To check for leaks, simply make up a solution of dishwashing liquid and water and brush or spray this solution on to all gas connections. If there are bubbles, then there is a leak that must be repaired. While the gas train has been tested and checked at the factory before shipment, it is important to double check the soundness of all gas connections once the unit has been installed in the barn and then before each curing season. We cannot recommend too strongly that you check for leaks.

C. CHECK THE CLEARANCE BETWEEN THE HEAT EXCHANGER AND THE ALUMINUM SHIELD HEAT SHIELDS

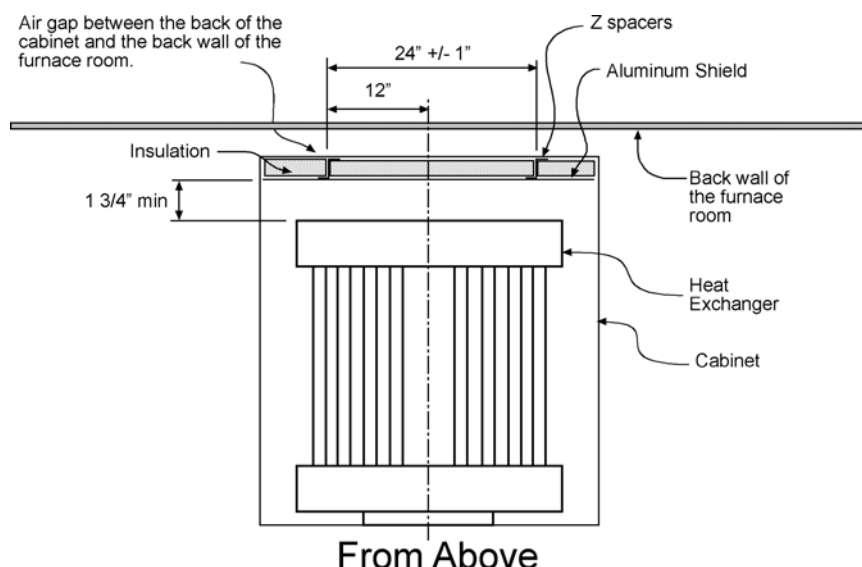
The clearance between the heat exchanger and the aluminum shield **MUST** be checked before each cure. The minimum recommended clearance is 1 __". If the heat exchanger is too close to the heat shield (less than 1 __" clearance) the shield can and will melt, leaving you without (any or proper) protection from a fire.

The "Z" spacers that support the aluminum shield must be correctly spaced. Even if the clearance is there and the Z brackets are not in the proper place the shield can be pulled in toward the heat exchanger by expansion due to heat. This can cause the shield to melt, leaving you without any protection from a fire.

The area behind the cabinet must be inspected to check that the wood 2 x 4's have been completely removed. If the shield melts (or worse yet is not even installed as we have seen in some cases) you have no protection and are subject to a fire.

By removing the wood, even if the shield should become damaged, the possibility of a fire is considerably less than it will be if the wood remains in contact with the cabinet.

Please review the diagram below for the recommended layout.



1. If the Aluminum shield has at least 1 _" clearance and the Z brackets properly placed (24" apart / 12" to the right and 12" to the left of a vertical line in the center of cabinet) then removing or leaving the wood is up to you. Removing the wood is and was for an added margin of safety and in your best interest.
2. If the Aluminum shield is installed correctly and the heat exchanger has less than 1 _" clearance then a spacer kit PN 61773100 (provided by BulkTobac for \$25.00 each + shipping and handling - Labor not included) must be installed for your safety. Please contact our Customer service department at (800) 438-4936 to order your kit.
3. If the "Z" spacers are incorrectly installed they must be reinstalled correctly. Correct installation is 24" +/- 1" apart.

D. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1. The gas pressure must not exceed the 15-PSI recommended setting. During our inspection of heat exchangers we have found that a number of growers are successfully curing at lower gas pressures. Using lower gas pressures and therefore a longer "ON" cycle can actually reduce your fuel bill.
2. Higher settings can cause over firing and damage the unit. It is designed to operate at a maximum of 500,000 BTUs
3. Never use a larger orifice than the one installed by the factory in your unit.
4. Care should be taken when loading the barn not to put excessive force on the back wall. If the force is too great the wall will push on the cabinet and reduce the clearance between the heat shield and the heat exchanger. This is a fire hazard as it can push aluminum in contact with the actual heat exchanger itself. This will melt the aluminum shield and will cause a fire. Please check to make sure that the back wall has not been pushed in towards the heat exchanger. If this has occurred then you must purchase and install the previously described extension kit.

BulkTobac has provided this information to help reduce the risk of fires and improve the reliability of your curing system. We appreciate your patronage. If you have any additional questions please contact our Customer service department at (800) 438-4936.

Enc.

BulkTobac Warning labels (B937)
Gas Connector Identification Sheet (B-938)
Copper connector request reply card

BULKTOBAC BARN COMBUSTIBLE DEBRIS FIRE HAZARD WARNING



WARNING

FIRE HAZARD

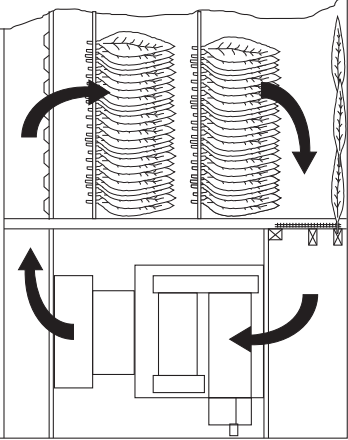
DO NOT allow debris to collect under the heat exchanger.

- 1/2" hardware cloth must completely cover the return air plenum to prevent any leaves or trash from passing into the area below the heat exchanger.
- Before operating the furnace check that the floor below the heat exchanger is clear of debris or trash before operating the furnace.

Failure to prevent debris collecting under the heat exchanger may result in death, personal injury or property damage.

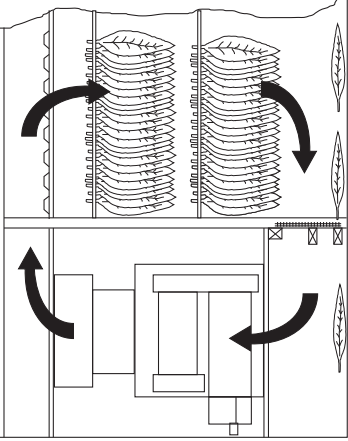
On the final day of curing.....

1



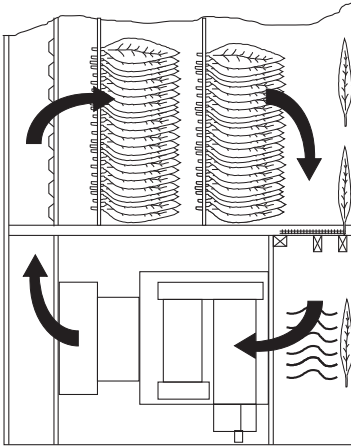
Leaves on the floor collecting by the return air plenum.

2



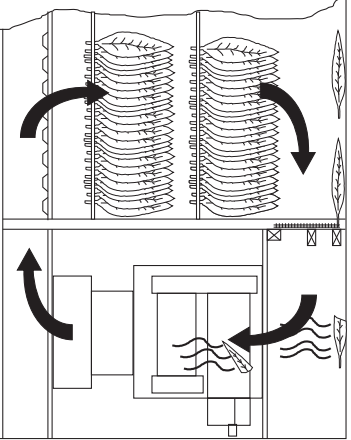
Leaves can pass through gaps in the screen covering the return air plenum.

3



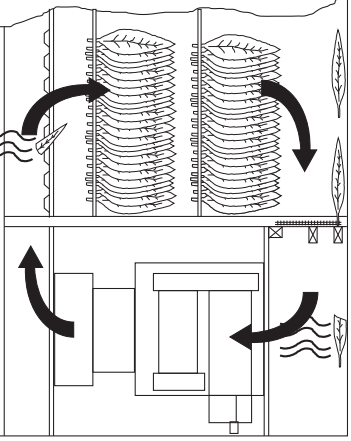
Debris under the heat exchanger will become very hot and dry.

4



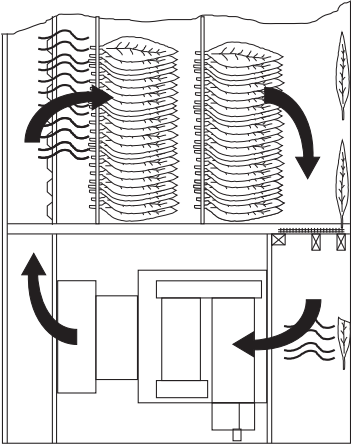
If the recirculating air picks up the debris it can into contact with the heat exchanger

5



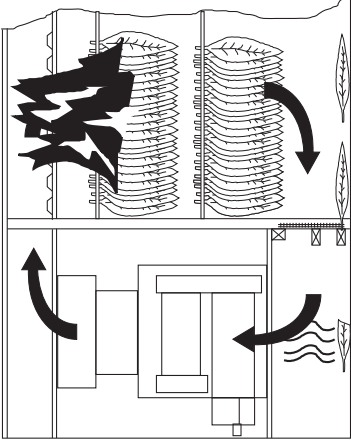
The air can carry the smoldering debris into the top of the tobacco.

6



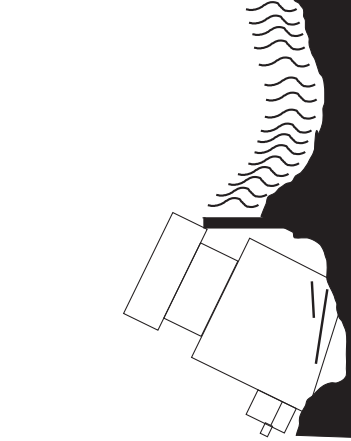
The debris can cause the tobacco to begin smoldering.

7




Because the tobacco is already dry and at a temperature around 160F it can ignite very easily


8



Once the tobacco catches fire it will burn very rapidly.

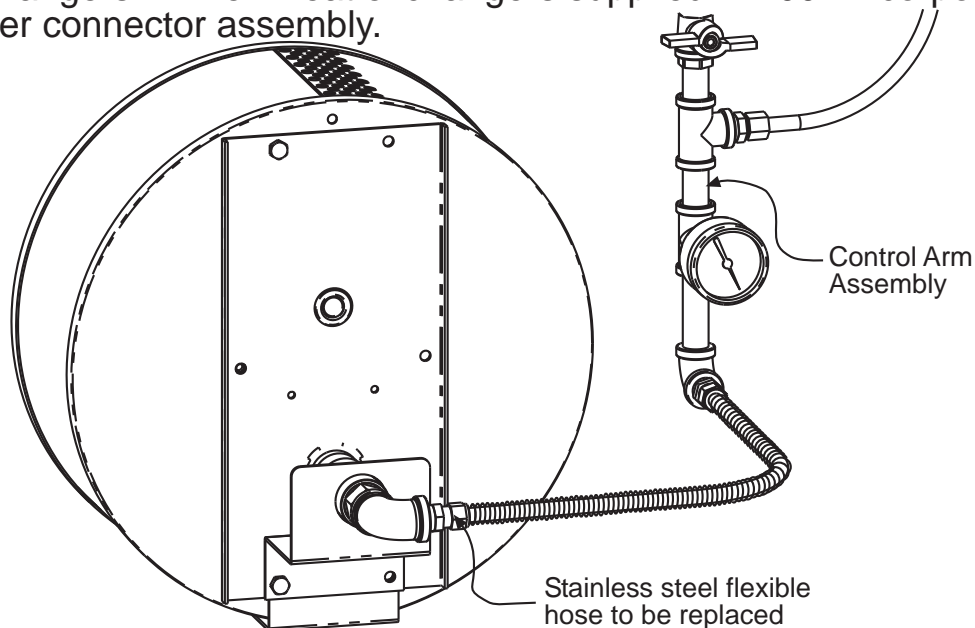
BulkTobac - WARNING LABELS

⚠ WARNING	
	<p style="text-align: center;">FIRE HAZARD</p> <p>All barn models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat shields provided must be properly installed. NO exposed wood can be within 36 inches of the heat exchanger. For more information see the installation manual or contact the manufacturer. Check all gas connections regularly to ensure they are tight. Check that the orifice is tight regularly. The gas line must be a copper tube. If the line is a corrugated metal hose contact the manufacturer for a replacement. There must be at least 500 square inches open area for combustion air. The vent supplied with the HeatX must be properly installed to the manufacturers instructions. Do NOT exceed the maximum gas inlet pressure. See rating plate for details. <p>BulkTobac barns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1/2" hardware cloth must completely cover the return air plenum to prevent any leaves or trash from passing into the area below the heat exchanger. Before operating the furnace check that the floor below the heat exchanger is clear of debris or trash before operating the furnace. <p>Roanoke and Dixie barns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wood 2 x 4 behind the heat exchanger cabinet must be completely removed. Contact the manufacturer for removal instructions. There must be 2" clearance between the back of the heat exchanger and the heat shield. <p>Dixie barns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dixie barns must have a spacer kit installed to give a 2" clearance between the back of the heat exchanger and the heat shield. Contact manufacturer for details. <p>Failure to follow these instructions may result in death, serious injury or property damage.</p> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">PN 42834150 rev 02/02</p>

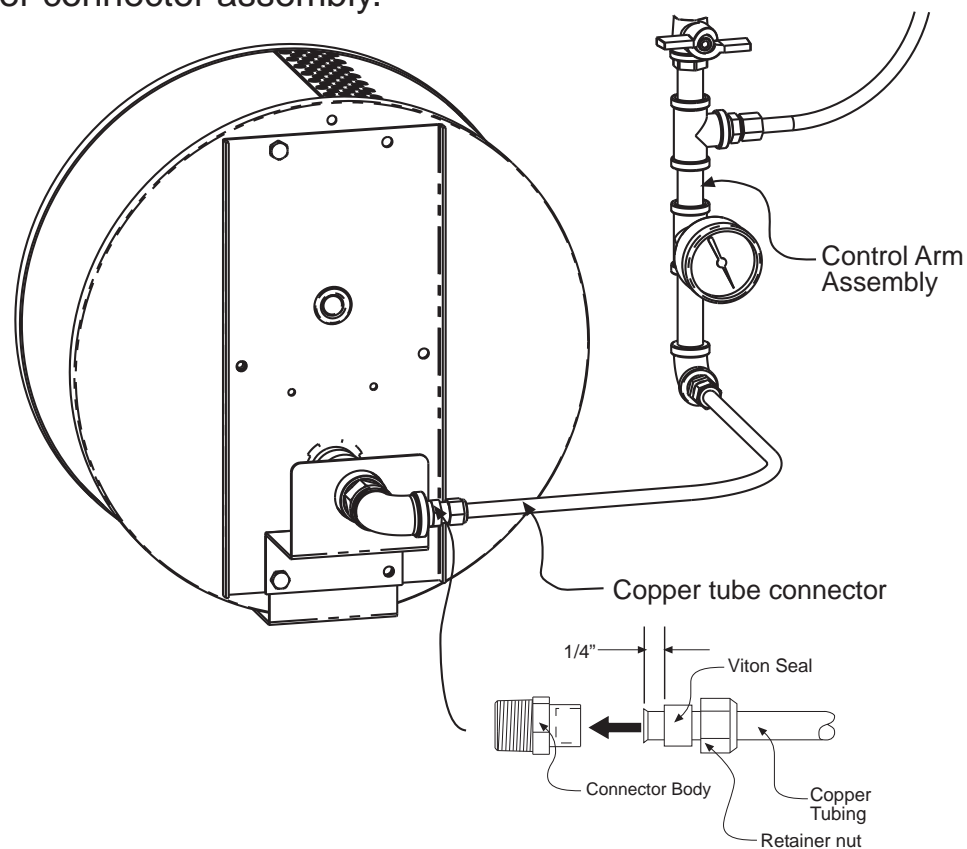
<div style="background-color: #f4a460; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">WARNING</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">EXPLOSION HAZARD</div> <p>All barn models</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do not use or store gasoline or other flammable liquids in open containers in the furnace room or barn. <p>Oil burners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the oil burner is serviced regularly, at least once per year by a qualified service technician. <p>Failure to follow these instructions may result in death, serious injury or property damage.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">PN 42834160 rev 02/02</p>	<div style="background-color: #f4a460; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">⚠ WARNING</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">MOVING PARTS HAZARD</div> <p>Do NOT operate the fan without the guards covering the pulley in place.</p> <p>Failure to follow these instructions may result in death, serious injury or property damage.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">Applies to BulkTobac and Powell barns only.</p>
⚠ WARNING	
<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">ELECTRIC SHOCK HAZARD</div> <p>Disconnect electrical supply before servicing</p> <p>Failure to follow these instructions may result in death, serious injury or property damage.</p>	<div style="background-color: #f4a460; text-align: center; padding: 5px;">⚠ WARNING</div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold; padding: 5px;">TRIP HAZARD</div> <p>Watch your step.</p> <p>Use caution when entering or leaving the furnace room.</p> <p>Failure to follow these instructions may result in serious injury.</p>

Gas Connector Identification Sheet

New Copper connector should be retrofitted to all pre 2002 model HeatX heat exchangers. All new heat exchangers supplied in 2002 incorporated the copper connector assembly.

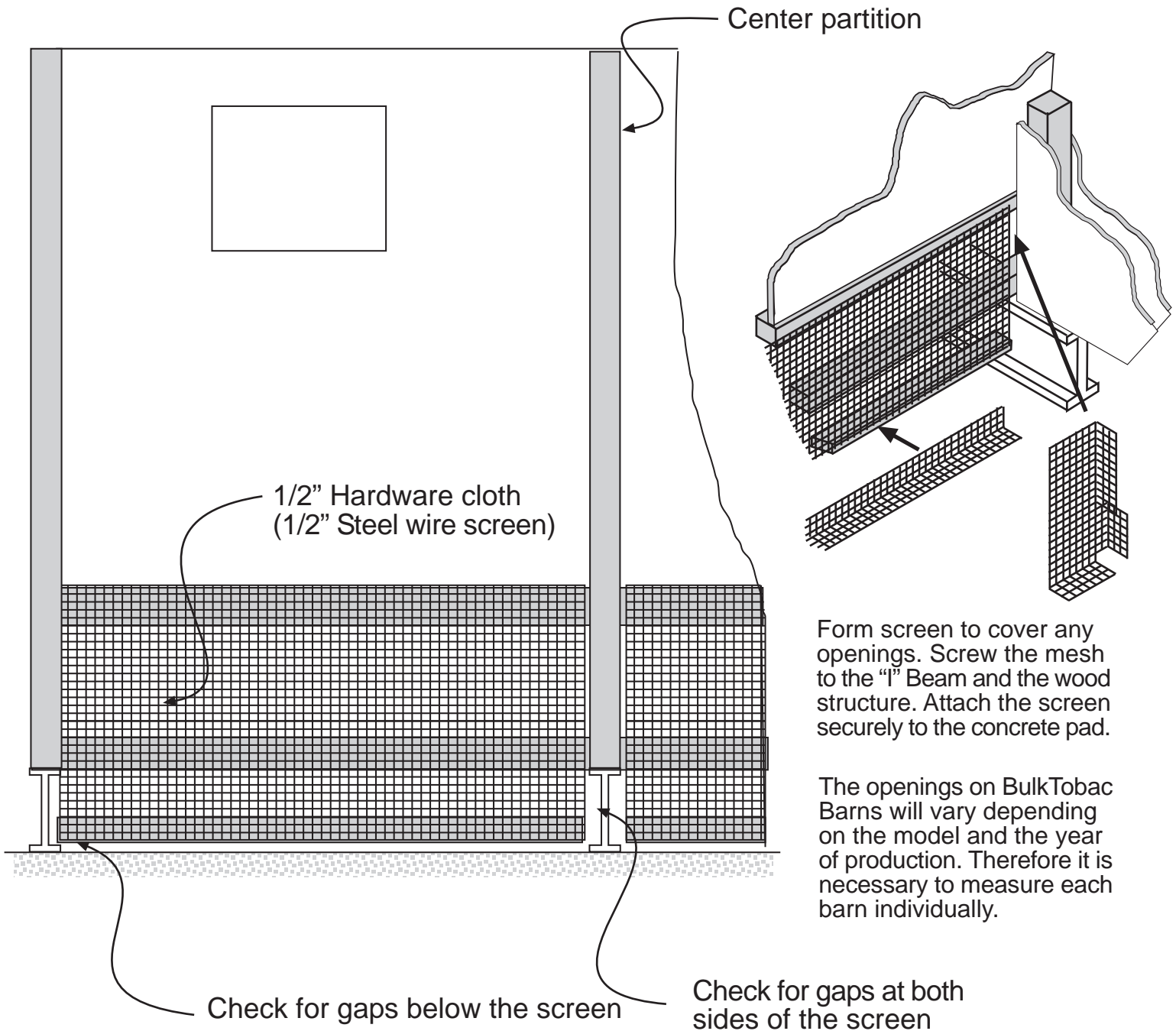


New Copper connector should be retrofitted to all pre 2002 model HeatX heat exchangers. All new heat exchangers supplied in 2002 incorporated the copper connector assembly.



HEATX PROTECTIVE SCREEN INFORMATION SHEET

VIEW INSIDE A BULKTOBAC PORTABLE RACK BARN SHOWING THE HARDWARE CLOTH COVERING THE RETURN AIR PLENUM



MAKE SURE THERE ARE NO GAPS AROUND THE PROTECTIVE SCREEN!

COVER ANY OPENINGS USING STEEL 1/2" HARDWARE CLOTH TO PREVENT DEBRIS GETTING INTO THE AREA BELOW THE HEAT EXCHANGER. FAILURE TO PREVENT DEBRIS UNDER THE HEAT EXCHANGER CAN RESULT IN A FIRE.