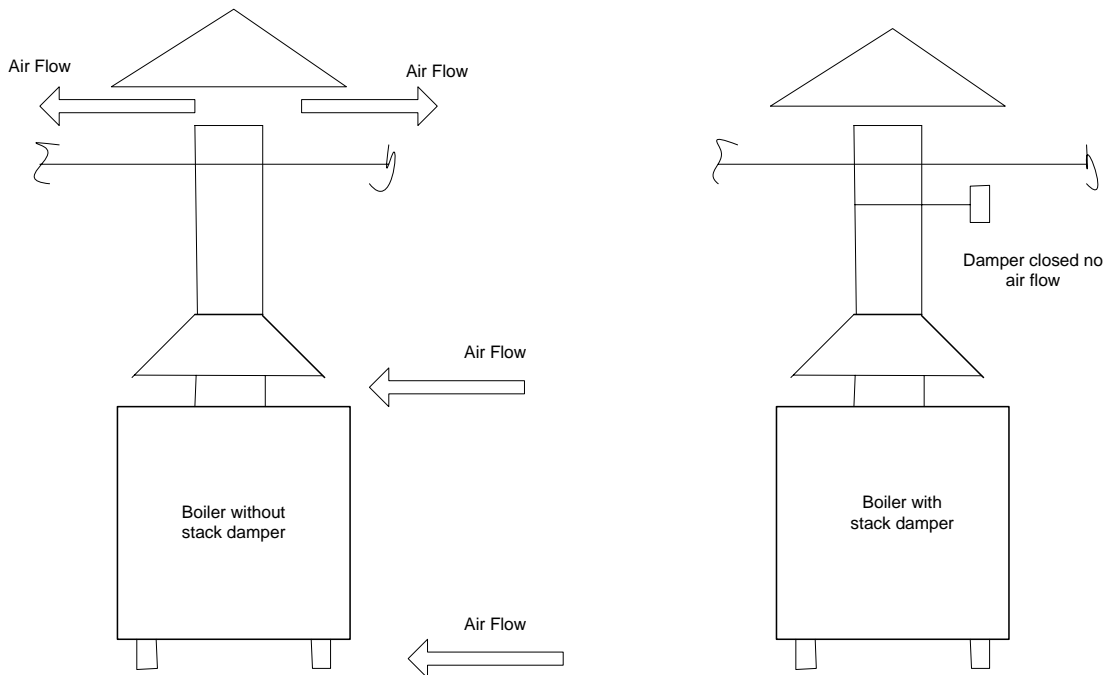


# Eddy's Boilerhouse News

## TIP OF THE MONTH FOR THE MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

By Eddy Emerson



**Stack Dampers** - do they work, or not? Well if they are anything like Eddy Emerson the *Fat Boy* they never work. But, since they are not like me, they work real well.

When a boiler isn't firing, a great deal of energy can be lost up the stack due to the chimney effect when the lighter hot air formed in the boiler internals and in the hot stack pulls cold air in through the boiler. This situation is most common on atmospheric or natural draft burners, but may be present on some older equipment too.

A damper automatically closes off the stack when the boiler isn't firing,

holding the heat in the boiler. A burner interlock switch is placed on the stack damper to prevent the burner from firing if the damper does not open.

The potential savings is good (5% to 15%) depending on the equipment. Even 5% is worth going after. Boilers with power burners close down the burner damper to the minimum firing position when they are not firing. This serves much the same purpose as the stack damper. We still have some heat losses unless the damper is closed all the way.

Burners with parallel positioning, such as Honeywell's ControLinks™ will

completely close the burner damper when the burner is not firing and this will improve the true efficiency .

Oh, you want to know the cost. The cost depends on the boiler and stack number and size, but it is low compared to the cost of fuel. This one is worth doing.

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