

4. The pipe system must be installed so that each circuit has its correct friction head. To bring this about, it is necessary in some cases to minimize the friction, *i.e.*, to make the pipe line as short as possible and to provide as few fittings as possible; and in other cases it is necessary to increase the length of the pipe and the number of fittings so that, for every circuit, the friction head will be equal to the available pressure head.

The connections from the boiler to the mains should be short and direct, to reduce the friction head. It is frequently possible to avoid an elbow and to reduce the length of the pipe by running the pipe in a diagonal direction, either in a horizontal or in a vertical plane.

The mains and branches should pitch up and away from the heater, generally not less than 1 in. in 10 ft. The flow main should always be covered; the return main should be covered except where it is to provide the heating surface for the basement.

The connections from mains to branches and to risers should be such that circulation through the risers will start in the right direction. Hence, in a one-pipe system the flow connection must be nearer the heater than the return connection. In a correctly-designed two-pipe system, the pressure in the flow main is higher than that in the return

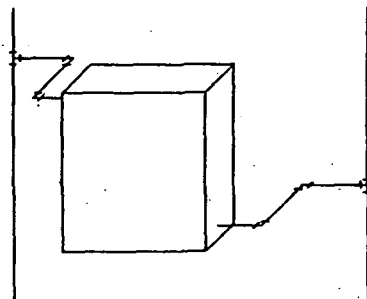


FIG. 11. METHOD OF CONNECTING RADIATOR TO ALLOW FOR EXPANSION OF PIPE

main, and a slight variation in the distances of the flow and return connections from the heater is not material; but it is generally best to have the two connections about equally distant from the heater.

In some cases it may be advisable to take the flow connection off the top of the main and the return connection from the side, but in most cases both connections should be at an angle of 45 deg. This method shortens the lines and substitutes 45-deg ells for 90-deg ells.

Preferably, connection of the flow riser to a radiator should be to the upper tapping, and connection of the return riser to a radiator should be to the lower tapping. When hot water enters at the top of a radiator it will distribute itself along the entire length of the radiator, and as it cools it will settle gradually to the bottom; the cool water may then be taken out of the radiator at either end.

With forced circulation and high velocities, it is advisable to let the water enter at the top of the radiator and leave at the bottom of the opposite end. With gravity circulation and low velocities it makes little difference whether the water leaves at the end at which it enters or at the opposite end.

The connections of the risers to the radiators should be such that provision is made for the vertical expansion of the risers. This can be accomplished as indicated in Fig. 11 by using one tee and two ells for each connection. These connections should be pitched upward or downward, whichever may be necessary to prevent the formation of air pockets and to permit draining.

PROBLEMS IN PRACTICE

1 • What causes the circulation of water in hot water heating systems?

In gravity systems, circulation is caused by the difference between the weight of the cool water in the return riser and that of the hot water in the flow riser.

In forced circulation systems, circulation is produced primarily by a pump, and secondarily by the difference in the weights of the water in the return and flow risers. However, the secondary effect is so small when compared with that of the circulating pump that it may be neglected in most cases.

2 • What tends to prevent or to retard the circulation of water in hot water heating systems?

In both gravity flow and forced circulation systems, the friction which must be overcome when the water is flowing through pipes, fittings, valves, heaters, and radiators tends to prevent or retard circulation. For a given pipe the friction varies approximately as the 1.7 power of the velocity, and for given fittings, valves, heaters, and radiators, the friction varies approximately as the square of the velocity. It is therefore sufficiently accurate to express the friction in fittings, valves, heaters, and radiators in terms of the friction in one standard elbow, as shown in Table 1.

3 • In the elementary heating system, Fig. 8, what is the pressure head maintaining the circulation if the water in the return riser is at 180 F and that in the flow riser is at 200 F?

It is found, from Table 8, Chapter 1, that 180 F water weighs 60.61 lb per cu ft and 200 F water weighs 60.13 lb per cu ft. The pressure head is independent of the size of the pipe. If the two risers were each 1 ft square, the water in the flow riser would weigh 601.3 lb and that in the return riser would weigh 606.1 lb. Thus the water in the return riser would weigh 4.8 lb more than that in the flow riser. Consequently, the resulting pressure head is 4.8 lb per square foot.

Pressure heads are generally expressed in feet, or inches, or milinches of water of a given temperature. In this case we are dealing with water at both 180 F and 200 F, so the pressure head is expressed in terms of 190 F water. Such water weighs 60.39 lb per cu ft, and to secure a pressure of 4.8 lb per square foot, it is necessary to have a column of water having a weight of 4.8 divided by 60.39 = 0.0795 ft, or 0.9540 in., or 954 milinches. This is the pressure head which maintains the circulation.

4 • In the elementary system of Question 3, if the radiator dissipates 14,000 Btu per hour, what is the velocity of the water in the pipe line, if the pipes are 1 in. in diameter? What, if they are ¾ in. in diameter?

Since the temperature drop through the radiator is from 200 F to 180 F or 20 F, every pound of water flowing through the radiators delivers 20 Btu; consequently, 14,000 divided by 20 = 700 lb of water, or for 190 F water, 700 divided by 60.39 = 11.59 cu ft of water must flow through the radiator and through the pipe lines every hour.

The interior area of a 1-in. pipe is 0.864 sq in. The velocity in the 1-in. pipe is 11.59 divided by 0.864 and multiplied by 144 = 1932 ft per hour or 6.44 in. per second.

For ¾-in. pipe, the interior area is 0.533, and the velocity is 6.44 multiplied by 0.864 and divided by 533 = 10.44 in. per second.

5 • If, in the elementary heating system of Question 3, a 1-in. pipe line is used, what would be the friction head?

If the radiator is connected as shown in Fig. 11, with the heater connected to provide freedom of expansion, the heating circuit may be assumed to consist of a heater, 25 ft of pipe, 8 elbows, 1 radiator valve, and 1 radiator. From Table 1 it appears that the heater and radiator are equivalent, in friction, to 6 elbows; hence, the circuit may be placed equal to 25 ft of pipe and 14 elbows.

From the diagram of Fig. 4 it appears that the friction head for a 1-in. pipe and a velocity