

There are several indicators of quality air handling units: low cabinet leakage, cabinet strength, ease of maintenance, resistance to cabinet sweating, and longevity, just to name a few. ClimateCraft's custom air handling unit addresses the customer's needs by utilizing modern production processes resulting in the highest quality air handling unit on the market today.

Why Does Cabinet Strength Matter?

The Cabinet strength has always been a key indicator of the quality of an air handling unit. A strong cabinet is able to withstand snow loads and wind loads during storms, resist cabinet leakage, and prevent the likelihood of damage during unit shipment.

Typically, air handling units with panels that deflect excessively will tend to leak excessively. For example, the cabinets may be tight at low pressures, but the panel deflection at higher pressures will cause panel seals to leak. Equally as problematic, weak cabinets may present as tight at the factory under strict manufacturing conditions. However, weak cabinets are prone to leak, especially after enduring unpredictable transportation en route to the job site.

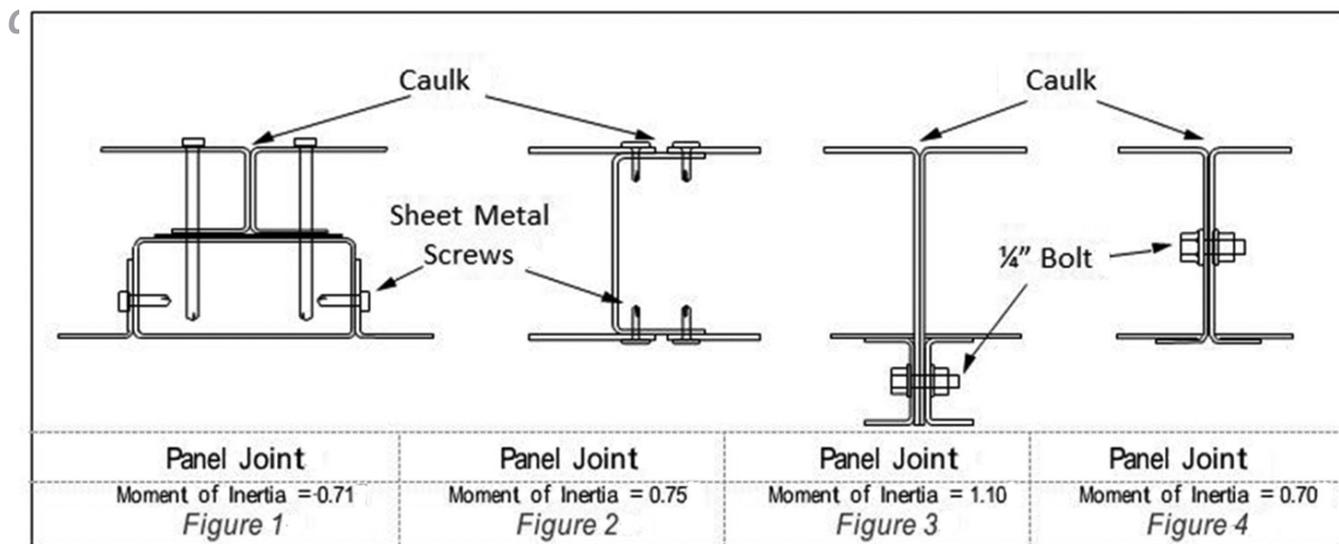
Exterior Panel

Cabinet Design Considerations

The drawings at the bottom of this page illustrate moments of inertia for the panel joints of several major custom air handling unit manufacturers. The higher the moment of inertia, the stronger the joint.

A much simpler, and less error prone method of unit construction, is to eliminate the cabinet frame (see Figure 4 below). However, there can be several disadvantages in the typical cabinet design that does not use a frame.

- Thermal break construction is often very expensive or not an option.
- The panel fasteners that are hidden are difficult to access. Servicing major internal components is time consuming and expensive.
- The lack of frame and panel support can create a unit that will collapse when removing panels for servicing major internal components. This type of unit can be more of a service problem than using a cutting torch and welder that is required to service welded frame units.
- Panel sealants are exposed to the UV light of the sun and weather. The probability of cabinet leakage in just a few years after installation is increased dramatically due to the degradation of the sealing material.



Typical panel joint construction of two-inch insulated cabinet with 16 gauge steel outer liner and 20 gauge steel inner liner.

Traditional Methods of Cabinet Construction

Before automated manufacturing and personal computers, one of the simplest and best methods to produce a custom air handling unit was to make a structural frame. A frame offered a strong cabinet and construction flexibility with minimal engineering.

However, utilizing modern technology, these old methods are no longer required. Most of the custom manufacturers today that use welded frame construction are still using the same labor-intensive and error-prone construction methods that were developed decades ago. The weaknesses in the frame construction far overshadow the strengths.

- Welded frame construction is labor-intensive, introducing the possibility for mistakes.
- Quality is sacrificed in comparison to modern precision manufacturing automation.
- The frame must be cut and re-welded to service major internal equipment.
- Rust and corrosion are more likely to occur with painted tube versus galvanized metal.

ClimateCraft Panel Joint

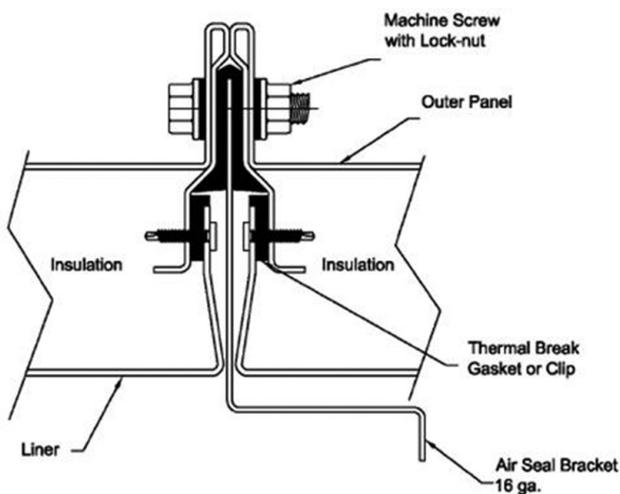


Figure 5: Moment of Inertia = 1.26

ClimateCraft Manufacturing Methodology

ClimateCraft has embraced innovative manufacturing methods and designs. Our manufacturing process creates the highest quality cabinet on the market.

ClimateCraft's unique panel design incorporates the strength of a unit with framed construction and the ease of service of a paneled unit. The moment of inertia of the ClimateCraft panel joint is greater than the typical framed unit (see Figure 5).

ClimateCraft's cabinet construction incorporates a top rail that enables panels to be removed without compromising the integrity of the rest of the cabinet. The cabinet will not collapse like conventional panel-only units.

A thermal break design is standard with ClimateCraft's design. Cabinet sweating is eliminated in most applications. Unlike many manufacturers (as illustrated in Figures 1 through 4), ClimateCraft's panel has been designed so that the cabinet sealing material is protected from UV light and the weather. This dramatically extends the life of the gasket. Stainless steel bolts are used for securing the panels. Most custom manufacturers use sheet metal screws that have a fraction of the strength of bolts. Sheet metal screws are also difficult, if not impossible, to reuse after the panel is removed. The stainless steel bolts are on the outside of the cabinet for easy access and removal. Although some custom manufacturers have the ability to incorporate the types of features listed above for an additional cost, most leave them out, significantly lowering the quality of their AHUs.

