

Air barriers provide protection

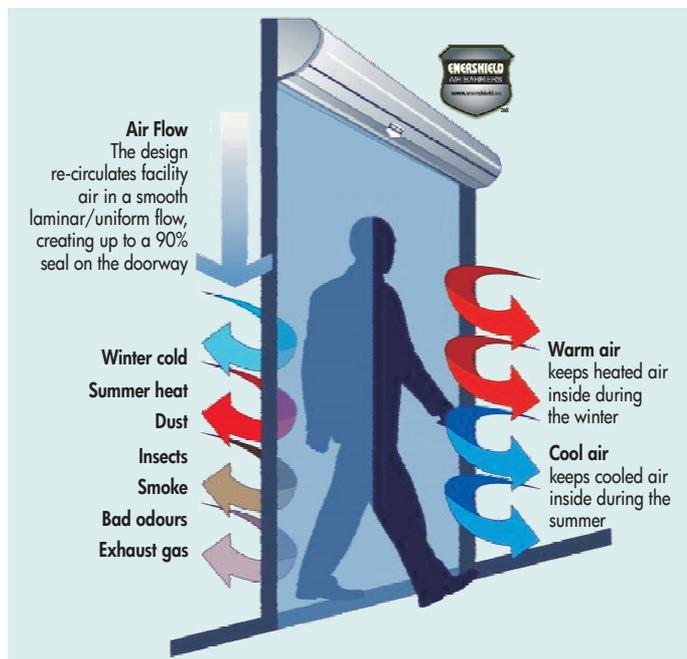
Mention the term – air barriers – and most of us would think of 'blasts' of hot (or cold) air when entering a facility from outside. But, rest assured, there is a bit more to this concept. One food manufacturer has taken it a stage further and it is preventing flying insects from entering their building.

Air barriers, such as those manufactured by Lanarkshire-based, Enershield Europe, (www.enershield.eu) create an effective seal on a doorway. So when one of Enershield's distributors, C-Mech Services based in Kent, was approached by a food manufacturing client with a problem of flies entering the premises, despite having a rapid opening PVC door, the air barrier seemed like the obvious solution.

The food manufacturer specialises in the production of very aromatic stocks, gravies and curry pastes which was attracting flies into the building. The only large entrance door, measuring three metres square, leading into the building already had a rapid opening PVC door, but due to the frequency of use, the door opening was still a vulnerable point of entry for flying insects.

Although the numbers of flies getting into the facility has always been kept within acceptable limits, achieving this sometimes meant adding additional electronic fly killers (EFKs) or periodically fogging – this was felt to be a treatment of the symptom, rather than preventing the problem.

The client wanted to ensure that fly numbers, especially those entering the building by this door opening, could be more tightly controlled. They also wanted to go further and find something which could improve the quality of their production environment, exceed



their customers' requirements and put them ahead of their competition.

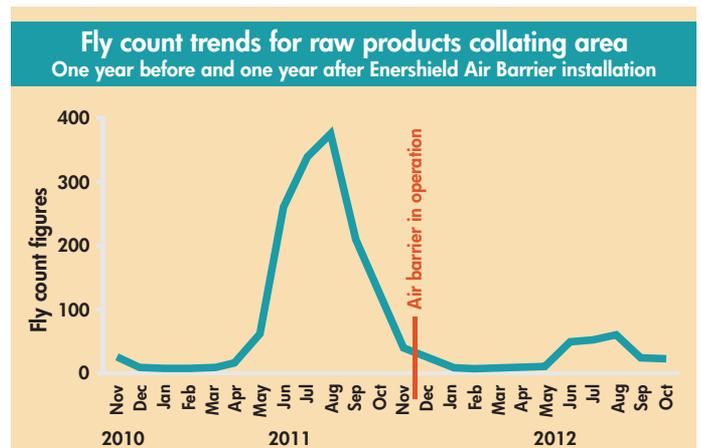


The fitted Enershield DSH-120 air barrier over the existing rapid-roll door

Following a detailed site survey, an Enershield DSH-120 air barrier was specified and installed to work in conjunction with the existing rapid-roll door which was mounted on the external entrance to the raw products collating area of the main building.

The Enershield air barrier creates a laminar flow of air, forced across the opening to create a 'virtual' door. This forms up to a 90% seal separating the environments on either side. The existing ambient air within the building was used to produce a high volume, high velocity 'waterfall' of air creating a barrier and preventing flying insects from passing through.

Detailed fly counts from EFKs in the collating area were taken before and after installation and these showed a 73% reduction in fly numbers over the same 12 month period. The actual percentage reduction was 77%, but adjusting for a general seasonal reduction in fly numbers for the year of study, this was factored down to 73%. Since installation of the air barrier, there has been no need to carry out any fogging.



Do you have any experience of such systems?
 Here at **Pest** we wondered if any other readers have been involved with such a system. If so, or if you have any comments, we would be pleased to hear from you. Contact the editor at editor@pestmagazine.co.uk