

January Troubleshooting Problem

QUESTION: Using the wiring diagram as a guide, and noting that the outdoor temperature is 50°F, when the customer explains that the unit has not operated for several hours, you elect to check the DFT, and your ohmmeter shows continuity. What is the next step you need to take in restoring this unit to proper operation?

ANSWER: The next step is to replace the outdoor coil sensor switch (DFT) because it should not be closed in a 50°F ambient. The design of this particular unit allowed the defrost timer to initiate a defrost cycle with a closed DFT, even if the unit was operating in the cooling cycle, which this system had been operating in on warm days. With the strip heaters energized, it was more heat than the system could remove, resulting in the temperature increase in the home until the outdoor temperature increased far enough for the DFT to open, terminating the false defrost mode.