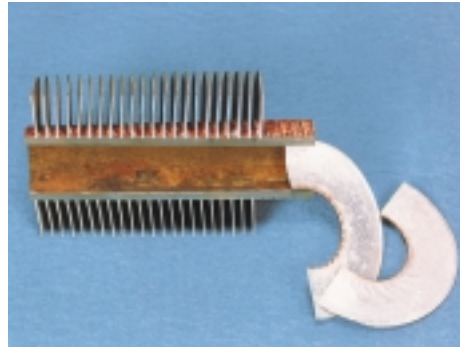
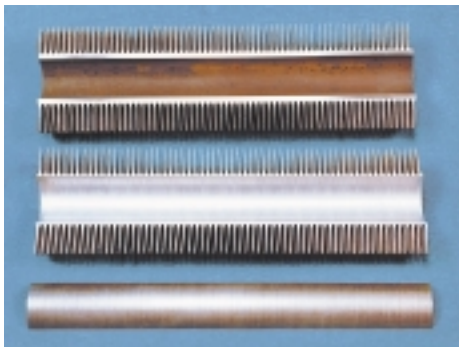


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*For thermal capability during the entire life of your air cooled heat exchanger,  
**BUY EXTRUDED ALUMINUM FINNED TUBES**  
... you can SEE the difference.*

The unretouched photographs of three types of helically finned tubes, namely, EXTRUDED, EMBEDDED, and WRAP-ON were all taken from bundles in operation for 10 to 12 years in petrochemical plants. The tubes were first tested for thermal capability, then cut open to reveal the condition of the bimetallic (aluminum/steel) interface, through which the heat must be transferred from process fluids within the steel tubes to the air flowing over aluminum fins.

Test results on representative samples of comparable service confirm that the EXTRUDED and extruded serrated samples were the only tubes retaining heat transfer capability within 5 percent of original design. Wrap-on and embedded samples show permanent loss of thermal capability from 15 to 50 percent of original design. And you can SEE the difference.



Note in the EXTRUDED sample that the contact surface of both the aluminum and the steel are as bright and clean as when originally joined in a manufacturing process that absolutely ensures against oxidation and galvanic corrosion in the presence of water, air and air-borne impurities at the fin-to-tube interface, and which provides a residual contact pressure of 2000 psi.

With the EMBEDDED sample, notice that there is a loss of tube wall due to depth of embedment groove, and that the products of corrosion are plainly in evidence for the length of the steel tube, including to the base of the groove, under the fin. It is the presence of these corrosion products that results in loss of thermal capability.

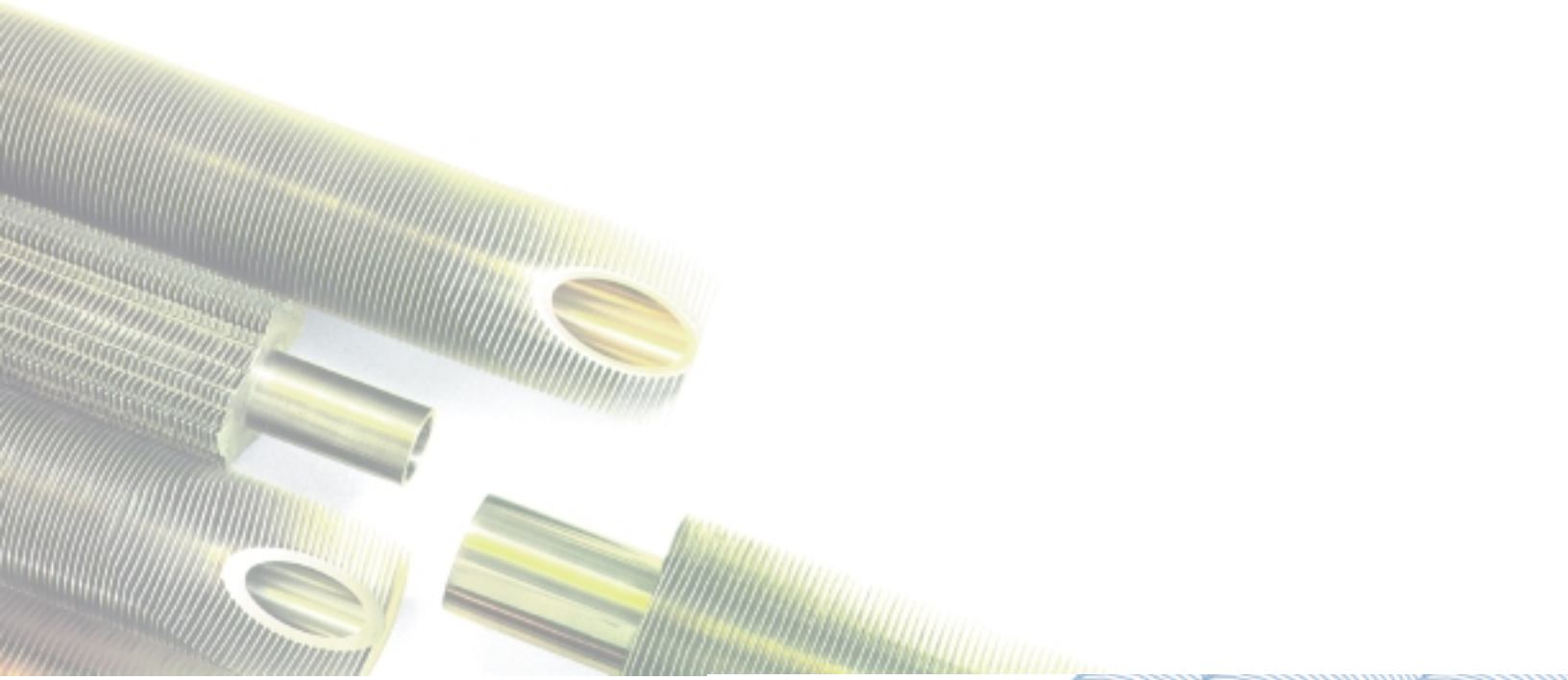
The WRAP-ON sample illustrates a serious corrosion condition between the fin and the tube, a situation that readily occurs in service because of loss of contact pressure at relatively low operation temperatures with this type of fin. The helically wrapped and lapped type of fin has similar integrity problems.

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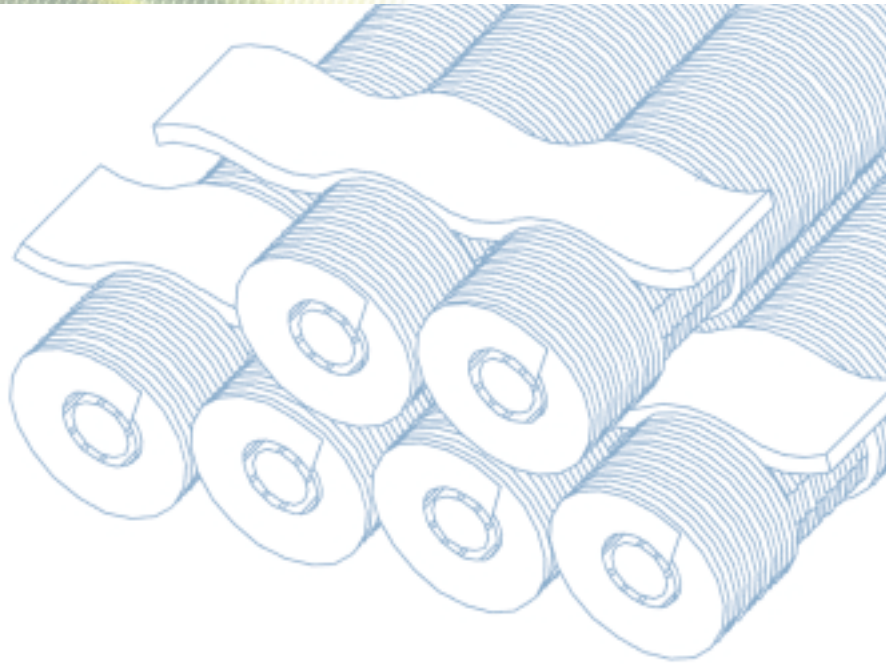
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