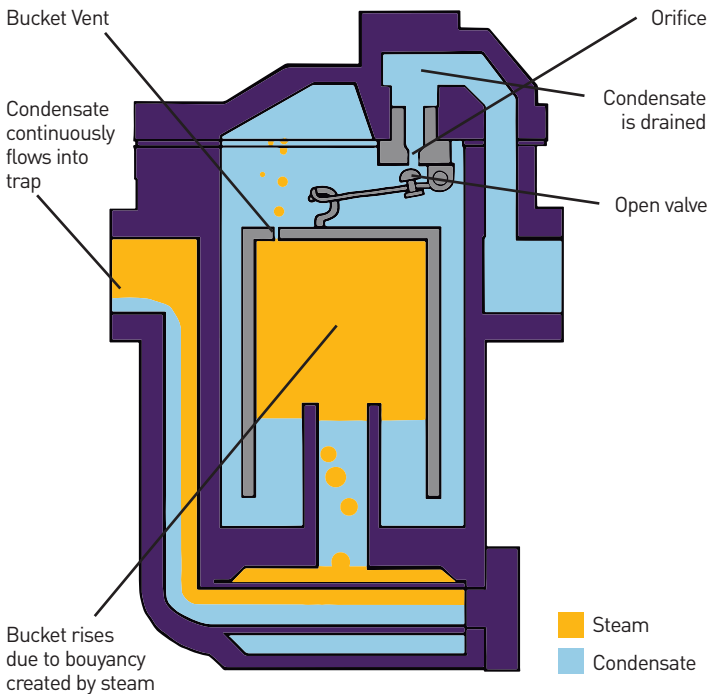




# INVERTED BUCKET TRAP TROUBLESHOOTING GUIDE

**MOST "TRAP" TROUBLES ARE  
ACTUALLY STEAM SYSTEM ISSUES.**



## ISSUE: TRAP IS COLD - NO DISCHARGE

### PRESSURE MAY BE TOO HIGH

- Reducing valve may be out of order
- Trap orifice enlarged from wear
- The pressure going to trap was increased, without adjusting the orifice size in the trap
- Pressure gauge from boiler malfunctioning - giving a lower reading
- Higher vacuum in return line creates increased pressure differential, not allowing the trap to activate

### THERE IS NO CONDENSATE OR STEAM COMING TO THE TRAP

- Plugged strainer ahead of trap
- Failed valve ahead of trap
- Elbow joints or pipe line clogged

### THE TRAP HAS A FAULTY INTERNAL MECHANISM

- Part will need to be replaced

### BODY OF TRAP IS FILLED WITH DEBRIS

- Remove dirt
- Clean strainer in trap if applicable
- Install strainer prior to tap

### THE VENT ON THE TOP OF THE BUCKET IS CLOGGED

- Install strainer in front of trap
- Use a scrubbing wire to clean bucket vent

## ISSUE: HOT TRAP - NO DISCHARGE

### NO CONDENSATE COMING TO TRAP

- Trap installed above a leaking by-pass valve
- Broken syphon pipe is a syphon drained cylinder
- Vacuum in water heater coils preventing drainage. Install a vacuum breaker between heat exchanger and trap

## ISSUE: HOT TAPS - STEAM LOSS

### VALVE NOT SEATING

- Dirt stuck in orifice
- Worn parts in trap

### TRAP LOSES PRIME

- Close inlet valve for a few minutes, then gradually reopen. If the trap catches its prime, the trap is ok. (Prime loss is due to sudden or frequent drops in pressure. Make sure check valves are installed and trap is installed below drip point)

## ISSUE: CONTINUOUS FLOW

### TRAP IS TOO SMALL

- A larger trap or additional traps in line are needed

### ABNORMAL WATER CONDITIONS

- Boiler is foaming or priming, causing extra water into steam lines. Correct feed water conditions

## ISSUE: TRAP WORKS, BUT UNITS ARE NOT HEATING PROPERLY

Traps needed on each unit. Install traps on each unit

Traps may be too small for the job - install the next size trap

## ISSUE: TRAP WORKS WHEN NOT CONNECTED TO RETURN LINE, BUT FAILS WHEN CONNECTED TO RETURN LINE

### BACKPRESSURE REDUCES TRAPS CAPACITY

- Return line is too small (trap will be hot)
- Other traps blowing live steam (trap will be hot)
- Blockage in return line (trap will be hot)
- Excessive vacuum in return line (trap will be cold)