

# STEAM TRAP FAQ WITH OUR EXPERTS

Steam systems are used in many modern industrial processes. The most common applications include steam-heated processes in plants and factories including food processing, and steam-driven turbines in electric power plants. With such widespread use in industry, energy loss through leaking steam traps can be a common source of energy waste in industrial facilities.

Energy Trust technical experts have answered your frequently asked questions about steam traps.

## **Q. How do I check to see if my steam traps are leaking?**

You can test the trap using an ultrasonic meter. However, if the trap has failed badly enough, it may be verified visually. A failed trap will be “blowing” steam constantly. A leaking trap will continue to pass steam when it’s supposed to be closed. The observed volume can be an indication of how bad the leak is.

## **Q. Some, but not all, of the steam traps at our plant have failed, either open or closed. Can I replace all of them at once?**

Yes, replacing all of the steam traps at one time is the most efficient solution. During the replacement, customers typically discover that steam traps are failed open, failed closed or not entirely failed.

## **Q. My facility’s steam lines make “knocking” noises; can that be related to failed steam traps?**

Yes, water hammer, or “knocking”, indicates a problem in the steam distribution system and can be a safety issue as well as an inefficiency issue. Water hammer usually indicates steam in the condensate line. Regular checking and maintenance of all steam traps in the distribution system can prevent water hammer.

## **Q. Is it better to rebuild or replace a steam trap that has failed?**

Either rebuilding or replacing a steam trap that has failed will save energy. Fixing or replacing failed steam traps will reduce condensed water in your steam lines and steam in your condensate lines, allowing your steam distribution system to operate more efficiently.

## **Q. How can Energy Trust of Oregon help me figure this all out?**

Call us at 1.888.777.4479 and we can connect you with a vendor near you to talk about opportunities, products and the upgrade process.



Visit [www.energytrust.org/for-business](http://www.energytrust.org/for-business) or call 1.888.777.4479 for more resources and information on how you can save energy at your business.

Interested in learning about cash incentives for your business, visit [www.energytrust.org/incentives/existing-buildings-premium-gas-hvac-water-heating](http://www.energytrust.org/incentives/existing-buildings-premium-gas-hvac-water-heating).

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