

Air Conditioning Systems

What is a secondary or emergency drain pan?

This is a metal or plastic pan located underneath your air handler. They are installed to protect the ceiling underneath from damage in the event the primary drain becomes blocked. The excess water would drain into the pan, rather than into the attic and ceiling below, through an overflow on the air handler. Sometimes a drain called a secondary drain or emergency drain is installed on these pans, which is ran out of an eve or soffett. A float switch should be installed on your secondary pan for further protection from overflow. In the event the secondary pan fills with water, the float switch with activate and shut down the unit.

Unique solution ID: #1029

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Last update: 2014-10-01 03:58