

This month's edition of Netafim TechTALK focuses on Air Vents.

Occasionally we run into situations where an air vent is used improperly or where one isn't used at all and should be. This can lead to increased energy costs, restrictions in flow, and vacuum related issues like collapsing pipe and mud ingestion in subsurface drippers. The table below lists the different Netafim air vent families and the features that set them apart.



FEATURE	GUARDIAN	CONTINUOUS	COMBINATION	DYNAMIC
Discharge large amounts of air during pipe filling	✓		✓	✓
Admit large amounts of air during pipe drainage	✓		✓	✓
Discharge air while under pressure		✓	✓	✓
Optional vacuum guard to prevent air admittance ★		✓	✓	
Control flow of air to prevent slamming				✓

Guardian vents are often referred to as air and vacuum relief vents and Continuous vents are also known as air release vents, but many people end up using the words relief and release interchangeably thereby confusing their true meaning.

As an example, looking at the table above, we can see that a Guardian vent cannot discharge air while under pressure so we would want to use one of the other vents at a high point in the network (where air accumulates) or after a valve or filter (because changes in pressure and temperature cause dissolved air to separate from water).

Netafim air vents seldom require servicing, but sometimes that odd piece of debris can become wedged inside the vent's seal causing water to accumulate around the valve. If the debris is not removed, the seal can become warped or damaged and it will need to be replaced. An isolation valve will allow the user to shut the vent off while the system is operating, fix the problem, and return the vent to service. Isolation valves are also very helpful at the bottom of sloping lines, where removing the vent would cause the line to drain unnecessarily.

Please refer to our website, [www.netafimusa.com](http://www.netafimusa.com), for more information including product specifications, flow rates and the Netafim Air Vent Selection Guide.

If you have a suggestion for a future topic, we'd love to hear from you. Please e-mail your idea to [communications@netafimusa.com](mailto:communications@netafimusa.com). Thank you.