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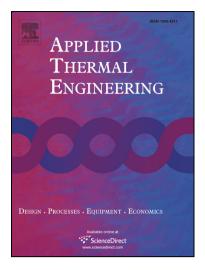
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Impact of Airside Fouling on Microchannel Heat Exchangers

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Highlights

- Different microchannel heat exchangers were tested before and after fouling.
- Fouling was observed and analyzed.
- Fouling mechanism and key factors were proposed in fouling process.

Abstract

In this study, the performance of the microchannel heat exchanger (MCHX) in domestic refrigerators was tested before and after fouling. The louvre-fin and plain-fin heat exchanger (HX) with fin pitches from 1.5mm to 3mm were tested. It was found that, for louvre-fin HXs and plain-fin HXs with the same fin pitch, the former is more sensitive to fouling. Under the situations of dust injection of 100g, the same air speed and the fin pitch of 2mm, the airside pressure of louvre-fin samples and plain-fin samples would respectively increase by 42.4% and 25.5%; their airside heat transfer rates would decrease by 35.6% and 17.9%, respectively. For louvre-fin HXs, according to test results, it seemed that airside pressure drop

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