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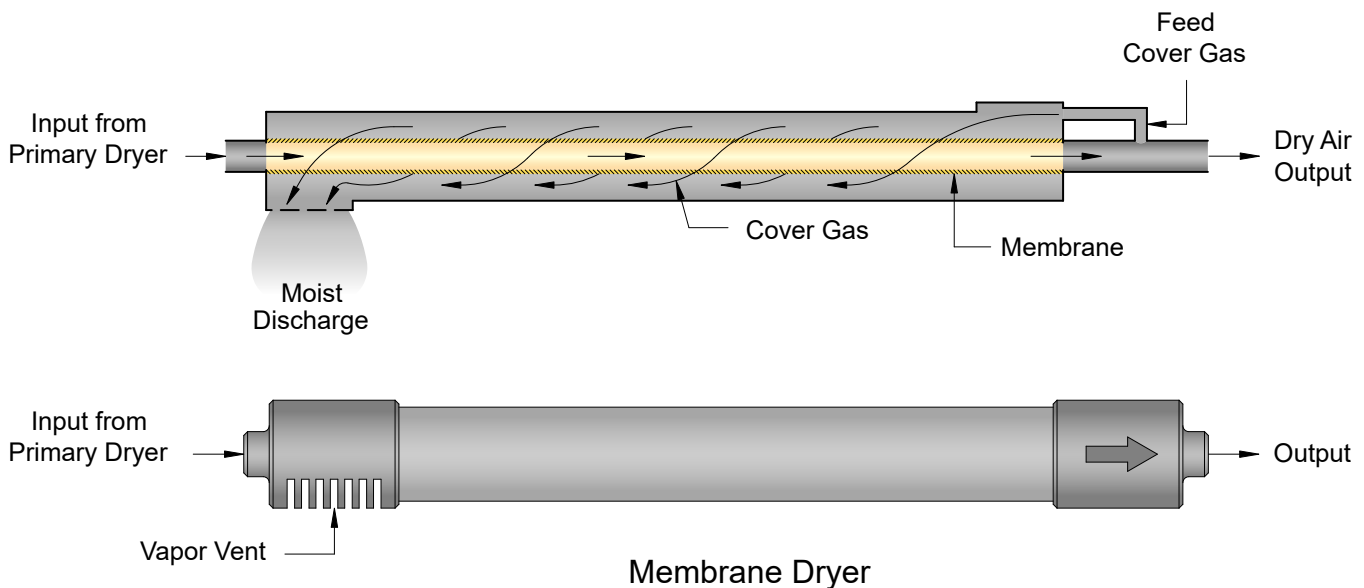
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Membrane Dryers

by Brian S. Elliott

Membrane dryers are a type of secondary dryer that are particularly suitable for low flow, high purity applications. When operated properly, these dryers can produce exceptionally low dew points. One of the most common uses for these dryers is supporting analytical chemistry laboratories.

Membrane dryers are very simple devices, however they are very delicate in operation. As compressed air flows through the center of the dryer, water vapor attaches the inside of a porous membrane. The internal pressure forces the moisture through the membrane where it evaporates into the cover gas (dry air). The now moist cover gas is vented to the atmosphere through a vent. Maintaining the balance between the main air flow and the cover gas flow is critical. If it's pushed out of a ideal range, the drying function of the dryer can be compromised.



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