TABLE 15-1

Simplified relations for natural convection heat transfer coefficients for various geometries in air at atmospheric pressure for laminar flow conditions

geometries in air at atmospheric pressure for laminar flow conditions (From Refs. 4 and 5.)		
	Natural convection heat transfer coefficient	
Geometry	W/m ² · °C (ΔT in °C, L or D in m)	Btu/h · ft ² · °F (ΔT in °F, L or D in ft)
Vertical plate or cylinder	$h_{\text{conv}} = 1.42 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.29 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$
Horizontal cylinder	$h_{\text{conv}} = 1.32 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{D}\right)^{0.25}$	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.27 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{D}\right)^{0.25}$
Horizontal plate ($L = 4A/p$, where A is surface area and p is perimeter Hot surface	$h_{conv} = 1.32 \Big(\frac{\Delta T}{L} \Big)^{0.25}$	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.27 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$
(a) Hot surface facing up Hot surface (b) Hot surface facing down	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.59 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.12 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$
Components on a circuit board	$h_{\text{conv}} = 2.44 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.50 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$
Small components or wires in free air	$h_{\text{conv}} = 3.53 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.72 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{L}\right)^{0.25}$
Sphere	$h_{\text{conv}} = 1.92 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{D}\right)^{0.25}$	$h_{\text{conv}} = 0.39 \left(\frac{\Delta T}{D}\right)^{0.25}$