



TECH TIPS

a technical bulletin by the experts at Gaco Western

Keeping Up with *Safety*

Recently, more contractors are joining the spray foam industry than ever before. There are a variety of spray foams for different applications, but the chemicals we handle each day are similar and the risks involved are shared by us all. No matter what product you spray, safety has to play a key role in your daily job duties.



To guide us with safety in our industry, there are some very important safeguards that apply to us on every jobsite, like Respiratory Programs, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and OSHA standards. It is our responsibility to protect others and ourselves on the job.

Every contractor should have a Respiratory Program in place for ALL of their employees. It includes documentation of procedures to follow and a requirement that employees be examined by licensed health physician for a lung capacity test. In addition, OSHA requires a fit test for the style of respirator used. This helps ensure the user is properly trained to care for and use the respirator. Note that fresh air systems need to be maintained and used when required by OSHA.

Personal Protective Equipment is required during all phases of spray foam jobs. Protecting our eyes, skin and lungs is important when spraying foam insulation, cleaning guns, consolidating drums or doing jobsite cleanup.

When working with raw chemicals make sure to wear chemical resistant gloves and suits. Also protect your eyes at all times. Different duties will require different PPE options; make sure you are prepared for all scenarios. Even during clean up, you may still need respiratory protection, as well as skin and eye protection.

OSHA standards will apply on every job. We use ladders, power tools, scaffolding and ventilating/fan systems. Make sure employees are up to date with OSHA requirements on the jobsite. There are many options available on-line for a 10 hour OSHA class that can help assist in training your staff.

Remember, **SAFE PRACTICES LEAD TO SAFE WORK SITES.**

As always, it is important to follow the directions and instructions provided with the chemicals/equipment that you are using.

If you have any tips that you would like to share for future Gaco Western Tech Tips, you can forward them to techtips@gaco.com 

**Having trouble with foam?
Just pick up the phone!**

Gaco Western's Tech Hotline:
855 639 4649

8am - 8pm CST, Mon-Sun

**Ideas, suggestions
or questions?**

techtips@gaco.com
