



TECH TIPS

a technical bulletin by the experts at Gaco Western

12 Proper Flushing Techniques – Save Valuable Product & Prevent Cross Contamination

Switching over from one spray foam product to another can be challenging at times. If you are not careful with your steps, cross contamination can become a problem, resulting in wasted product. Wasted product equates to wasted money and no one likes throwing away money.

Below are 12 simple step-by-step flushing instructions that will help you save time and money.



To get started you will need to have the drum of the new product you plan to spray loaded into the spray rig next to your old product. You will also need three 5-gallon buckets – one filled with clean water, one lined with a trash bag and the other one left empty.

1 Release pressure from the system by draining at the end of the hose or with the pressure relief valve at the machine.

2 Remove stick pump from poly drum, pop the bottom check ball and let the material drain back into the poly drum. Also tilt the stick pump onto the side to drain the small packing pipe in the middle. Finish by wiping down the stick to remove any residual poly off the pump.

3 Add an air pocket into the line by plugging the air directly into the stick pump. Make sure the air pressure is very low so you do not damage the stick pump springs. Add about ten strokes of air into the line.

4 Place the clean poly stick pump into the bucket of water and slowly introduce air into the pump. Start with low air pressure to minimize damage to springs in the stick pump.

5 Purge poly material out of the main spray line using the stick pump to push the poly through the machine, spray hose and into the empty bucket. *Note: During this step, ensure the pressure relief valve for the return line is set to "spray mode." We will talk about flushing this line in steps 8 and 12.*

6 During the purge, monitor the material that is going into the bucket. You are looking for the air pocket that we introduced in step 3. As soon as you see air spitting from the hose, shut off the fluid valve on the end of the hose so no water mixes with the poly. *Note: Uncontaminated poly from this step can be poured back into the original poly drum.*

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



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(Continued)



7 Move the hose to the bucket that is lined with the trash bag and open the valve on the end of the hose. Allow the material to empty into the bag until pure poly is no longer coming from the hose and turn off the valve.

8 Grab the pressure relief line, place over the bucket that is lined with the trash bag and open the valve slowly. Allow material to empty into the bag until the material turns to a watery liquid and turn off the valve. *Note: The pressure relief line may be connected to the stick pump and it must be disconnected before purging.*

9 Remove the poly stick pump from the water bucket and ensure the air is disconnected. Pop the bottom check ball again to drain any water remaining in the stick pump.


10 Prepare the next poly drum according to manufacturer instructions and follow any necessary mixing instructions. Place poly stick pump into the prepared drum. Plug stick pump in at low pressure and increase air as needed.

11 Move hose over to water bucket, open valve and allow the water in the line to empty into the bucket. Once the air pocket is visible, shut off the valve and move the line over to the bucket lined with the trash bag. Turn on valve, allow material to empty into bucket until pure poly is flowing through the hose and turn off valve.

12 Grab the pressure relief line once again, place over the water bucket, open valve and allow the material to flow until pure poly is flowing, turn off valve and set in “spray mode” before continuing.

After these steps your lines have been purged without cross contaminating your materials and you are now ready for your next spray job.

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 

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