



Will Parker
Field Service Technician



TECH TIPS

a technical bulletin by the experts at Gaco Western

TAKING CARE OF YOUR RIG

The spray rig is an essential part of what we rely on in the field to get the job done. If a spray rig is not functioning properly, it costs us time and money to get it back on line. Sometimes we make hard choices in the field and make band aid repairs to get by, but if we don't go back and fix the real problem it ends up costing us again in the middle of another spray job. These band aids can pile up to the point of not being able to spray at all. We must invest in the proper maintenance of the equipment and training of the employees who run it.



Failure to take care of your spray rig can be catastrophic to your business.

This picture above shows a reactor that was sentenced to death row. It is strapped to the wall, surrounded by filth and debris, and the lower housing door is left wide open while the door is shoved behind the machine. If you look on the fluid manifold you'll notice the older style pressure relief valve with one missing on the "A" side. This reactor has ball valves coming off of the fluid manifold to control pressure instead of the pressure relief valves which also act as a safety feature unlike

the ball valves. While these machines can take the rigors of the work load, if not properly maintained it becomes a safety hazard and a ticking time bomb.

In the picture on page 2 you can see how raw "A" material has been carelessly splattered all over the wall and on the drums and the floor. As you know, over time this material crystallizes with the moisture in the air and leaves stains on everything. From the picture you can also see how well the drum is vented allowing moisture and debris into the drum. Against the wall you will notice the

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gray handled boat oar which is used to stir the "B" side material, which requires taking the lid off the drum and potentially allowing more debris into the system. These types of practices are harmful to filters and high pressure seals and to the overall performance of the equipment.

These pictures clearly demonstrate the lack of maintenance and basic care it takes to maintain an efficient operating spray rig. Rigs like these are the ones that always have issues with foam performance or are broke down at the job site. Become more informed about your rig and the dangers of poor maintenance. Seek out the training that is available from your spray rig manufacturer and chemical supplier. Care about your employees and your investment in the spray rig. Someone who calls themselves a professional spray polyurethane foam installer should never show up at a jobsite with a rig looking like this. 

This is an example of bad housekeeping which can result in unsafe work areas and loss of newly purchased materials that are needed to complete job tasks. With all the clutter across the top of the work bench how can you even



rebuild or clean a gun? Look around the floor at all the debris piled up to the point where you can't even open the cabinet doors. The APR respirators are just hanging on the wall and not in sealed bags stored properly. There is an eye wash bottle on the wall but it is only half full.

Please Take **CARE!**

**C-ONTINUOUS
A-SSESSMENT OF
R-IG
E-EQUIPMENT**

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