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TECH TIPS

a technical bulletin by the experts at Gaco Western

SEASONAL CHANGES

As the seasons change from summer to fall and we go from warmer to cooler ambient temperatures, two things become more important to us: Drum Temperatures and Substrate Temperatures. Let's first focus on how to store and prep our drums and then discuss substrate limitations.

STORING AND PREPPING DRUMS



Storing drums in a controlled environment is essential for maximum performance of the chemical. Drum storage temperatures should range from 50°-70° F (10°-21° C). Storing drums below 50° F can severely increase viscosities of the Poly side product and storing drums above 80° F can shorten the shelf life expectancy of Poly side products. If you don't have a controlled environment for storing drums, put this on your list of things to take care of soon.

To bring drums to a serviceable temperature, meaning ready to use, they need to be prepped to 60°-80° F (16°-26° C). Failure to prep drums can lead to higher viscosities and pressure imbalances during spray. Pressure imbalance leads to off ratio or off spec foam. Prepping drums at the job site is easily done with an insulated spray rig and the use of band or blanket heaters. For half pound, open cell products, we can also use recirculation methods to heat the chemical from the reactor and back to the drum – but please be aware this is only effective for heating half pound, open cell product. **Do NOT recirculate or agitate two pound closed cell products as this will lead to frothing in the drum.**



SUBSTRATE LIMITATIONS

Colder substrates lead to lower yields; warmer substrates bring us better yields. With that in mind, work with the sun throughout the day. Start on the east substrate in the morning and work to the west substrate in the afternoon.

As ambient temperatures drop and substrates become cooler we are forced at times to heat our environments. Heating our environment is often done by the use of torpedo or dry element heaters. Torpedo heaters blast out a lot of heat but also bring more moisture to the air causing more problems – therefore dry element heaters are recommended. 



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?

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