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## TECH TIPS

a technical bulletin by the experts at Gaco Western

# Recessed Can Lights

*Spraying around recessed can lights can be a bit of a problem for spray foam applicators. Planning ahead and making sure your team is aware of the details of the job will help you complete the project right.*

Recognizing the type of recessed can light you are spraying around is important. There are two common types faced on the jobsite: the **insulated** ceiling type and the **non-insulated**.

The **INSULATED** ceiling type of can light generally has a metal box surrounding the light. The metal box is intended to be pressed up against the insulation with enough room inside the box to allow heat generated by the

bulb to escape. If the heat is not allowed to dissipate it will trip the heat sensor and shut the light off – most do so at 160°F. Therefore spraying foam directly to the outer side of the metal box is not recommended as it would contribute to the insulating and trapping of more heat in the box and cause the light to turn off quicker. It is best to leave a gap between the foam and the insulated can light.



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Having trouble with foam?  
Just pick up the phone!

Gaco Western's Tech Hotline:  
**855 639 4649**

8am - 8pm CST, Mon-Sun

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Ideas, suggestions  
or questions?

[techtips@gaco.com](mailto:techtips@gaco.com)

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# Recessed Can Lights (Continued)



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The **NON-INSULATED** can light must have at least 3" of clearance all the way around the light. Spray foam should never be directly applied to the light. Best practice is to purchase recessed light covers which will encapsulate the fixture with the appropriate space inside and then spray to the cover on

the outside. People have used everything from popcorn buckets to plastic planter pots to wrapping lights in fiberglass in order to protect lights, however these are not the best ideas. Stores such as Home Depot sell recessed light covers. These are made by TENMAT out of thermal insulating mineral wool and are the only flexible UL fire rated light cover. This product is made for exactly what we want it to do – protect the light while spraying around it.

If you go into a project having taken the above information into consideration, spraying around recessed can lights can be a problem-free experience.

