



# Reactivity Time



**When spraying foam, it is important to consider reactivity time.** With closed cell foam, ideal reactivity time is one second. This means that from the time the foam comes out of the gun and hits the substrate as darker colored liquid to when it starts to rise, one second should have passed.



To test this, spray a small amount of foam from about 2' from the substrate and count how long it takes to react. Each foam has a different number of degrees per second of wet time, and ideal reactivity time is achieved by adjusting gun temperature in relation to wet time - spray the substrate and count the seconds until the foam reacts, increase gun temperature and repeat the test until you reach ideal reactivity time.

**For example, our technicians have determined that wet time of GacoOnePass is 7°F per second. We know the goal is to have reactivity at one second.**


## Here are the steps we take in our example:

**1** We spray a spot on the substrate and count 5 seconds before we see it start to react.

**2** This means we need to increase 4 seconds in heat to get reactivity time dialed in (since we counted 5 seconds and our goal is one second, we must subtract one second, ending at 4.)

**3** Multiply the additional 4 seconds by 7 degrees per second (GacoOnePass wet time) and determine that machine temperatures need to be increased by 28°F.

Paying attention to reactivity time can help you save time and frustration on the job. If you pull the trigger and the foam is instantly reacted, this means the chemical is too hot and you will need to cool the temperatures down before continuing. Starting the day out with gun temperatures too hot can lead to gun clogging - if the foam reacts too quickly, the gun purge air can't clean it out before it reacts inside the chamber. Then you have to deal with that dirty chamber throughout the day.

A good rule of thumb is to start out a little cool every day and dial temperatures up to where you need them. 

**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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