



TECH TIPS

a technical bulletin by the experts at Gaco Western

Using a Band Heater



As the cooler weather is rolling in, it's time to consider the best ways to protect our chemical investments in order to maintain optimum sprayability and yield, while at the same time protecting our spray equipment. As a general rule, chemicals should be heated through proper storage and processing of material – such as controlled environments, insulated and heated rigs, and low temperature recirculation through the proportioner on open cell resins.

Those contractors who do not follow these guidelines often rely on blanket and band heaters for a quick fix. When these devices are properly maintained and are operated per manufacturer instructions, they can be effective in warming drums.

Potential Band Heater Problems

Problems can arise with a band heater when the temperature of the heater is not controlled and it is left on the drum too long. The band heater can overheat in one spot and when the chemical is depleted from the drum, the liner can crumble at the location of the band. The crumbled liner can then be pulled into the pump and travel through the proportioner and gun.

What can we do to avoid this?

- 1** Be educated and in the habit of properly storing materials during colder months – (insulated and heated rigs are a good thing!)
- 2** When spraying open cell resins, recirculate material through the proportioner at 100°F to warm drum temperatures.
- 3** When using band heaters, do not to exceed 100°F for long durations, especially while spraying from the drum.
- 4** Understand that band heaters are more helpful in maintaining the heat of a drum rather than being used to get material hot.
- 5** Understand that power blankets are another source for pre-heating drums.

Taking proper care when storing and warming chemicals is a must! 

**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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