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AIRLESS SPRAYING: SOME GOOD RULES FOR EFFECTIVE USE AND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT

TIPS—In modern airless spraying, the gun tip does the work. Tips are selected by their orifice sizes (.004 to .072 inches) and fan angle (10 to 80 degrees). Use the largest possible orifice with the lowest fluid pressure consistent with a clean, even fan pattern. Too much pressure will produce an off-spray or over-spray, and it will wear out the tip faster than a lower pressure.

AIR SUPPLY—Airless application depends upon sufficient volume of air pressure to force the material through a tiny orifice in the tip. To determine if there is enough product, the operator should check the air gauge when the pump starts to move. If the needle drops more than 20 pounds, there is not enough volume to atomize the Nox-Rust properly. In this case, either a larger compressor or a smaller tip size is needed. Inadequate pressure often can be traced to a too-light hose as well as an inadequately sized compressor. A good working rule is not to use a hose smaller thant he air inlet on the pump.

MATERIAL HOSE—For thixotropic one-coat Nox-Rust coatings: from 0 to 100 feet, 3/8 inch, heavy-duty I.D. hose; over 100 feet, 1/2 inch I.D. hose. The manufacturer suggests that the last 25 to 50 feet by 3/8 inch to provide the operator greater flexibilty with the gun. As the length of the hose increases, the diameter should increase to compensate for line pressure.

MAINTENANCE—Spray equipment should be flushed out with a compatible solvent at the end of each day's work. This includes cleaning up the surface. Keep the pump lubricated with Nox-Rust 7800 or other compatible oil during downtime. There is little difficulty involved in keeping self-cleaning spray tips clean. Just reverse them and blow them out.

It is not good practice to immerse any type of gun in cleaning solvent. Solvents remove lubricants from the gun and dry out the packings.

In addition to regular daily maitenance, a certain amount of periodic preventive maintenance will add years to the life of your equipment. Following is a preventive maintenance checklist:

1. Check air regulator and diaphragm for damage. Inspect the filter and valve for cleanliness.
2. Check high pressure fluid hose for raveled braiding and damaged hose connections.
3. Check fluid filter for clogged or broken mesh screen.
4. Check the gun cartridge, ball seat, packing, and spacers for damage and wear.

5. Check fluid pump for damage, worn packing, and worn piston cylinder.
6. Check air motor for damage, worn piston rings, scored cylinder walls, cleanliness of pilot valve, and worn pilot valve "o" rings.

WARNING! Because airless spray units develop extremely high pressures, NEVER put your hand or fingers in front of gun or point the gun at your body or at anyone else.

Before operating pump, read the manufacturer's recommendations on maximum pressures and operating instructions. Before removing any part of equipment, shut off pump and discharge contents of gun.

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