Transfer Pump Questions & Suggestions

Our technicians have compiled some of the most common questions they receive regarding transfer pumps. We hope these suggestions are helpful.

Why won’t my transfer pump cycle at the top of the stroke?
A damaged spring (located in the top cap) is not allowing enough pressure on the top plate of the air motor to reverse the direction of the pump. Allowing the stick pump to run dry will damage this spring.

How should I prime my stick pump?
Start with low air pressure going into the pump (use the needle valve that comes with the pump or install a ball valve on the air hose.) This will allow the pump to pick up fluid and fill the cylinder without damaging the top spring.

How much air pressure should I use to run my stick pump?
On a 2:1 stick pump, we recommend 100 psi. With 100 psi air pressure into the pump you get 200 psi fluid pressure out of the pump.

Why does air leak from my stick pump?
- Teflon washer, located on air motor, has failed.
- Top plate rubber is damaged.
- Rubber o-rings are damaged or have debris on them.

Why does the pump continue to cycle?
- The fluid level in the drum is low.
- The foot valve has fallen off the pump (this is located at the very bottom of pump.)
- An object is stuck between the ball and seat in the foot valve, keeping the ball from sealing to the seat.
- Damaged seat.
- Varnish (chemical) is on the ball, keeping ball from sealing to the seat.
Transfer Pump

Questions & Suggestions

(Continued)

How do I keep my foot valve from falling off my stick pump?
• Clean the threads on the pump and foot valve
• Add a couple drops of blue medium grade Loctite to threads and reinstall.

Should I store my stick pump in solvent when not in use?
• No. Solvents can damage pumps over time.
• Pumps can be left in a full to nearly full drum of material with bung adapter sealed to the drum.
• Bung adapter should also be used on the ISO pump drum and the drum should have a desiccant filter attached. Drum should be sealed to block moisture from getting inside.
• Back up or extra ISO pumps should be disassembled and cleaned thoroughly before storing.

How do I service my stick pump?
• Grease air motor and air cylinder monthly.
• Use air tool oil in the air fitting daily.

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?
techtips@gaco.com

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