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Your Guide to Spray Foam Insulation Equipment

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If you are new to the Spray Polyurethane Foam (SPF) insulation industry, it is important to understand that the success of any SPF application ultimately depends on the effectiveness of your foam insulation equipment.

In fact, without reliable equipment, you literally cannot install spray foam.

From your proportioner, spray foam gun, and heated hoses to your mobile spray rig, each piece of foam insulation equipment plays a crucial role in an application.

If you are planning to purchase equipment for your new SPF business, the Intech Equipment & Supply team suggests taking enough time to conduct thorough research before you make any hasty purchasing decisions.

After all, the choices you make now about the equipment you invest in will ultimately contribute to the future overall success of your business.



Your SPF Journey: Getting Started

There are several aspects that come into play as you figure out your SPF equipment needs. Options range from leasing or renting, to buying new or used equipment. In addition, you need to make choices on various equipment models and brands.

As you begin to research options for your spray foam insulation equipment, it is important to realize that the actual cost of your equipment does not end once you pay. Numerous factors will continue to impact "costs," including SPF insulation materials, maintenance, and repair costs.

With this in mind, picking the right equipment to complement your specific business offerings can make a big difference.

We suggest determining your initial equipment needs based on numerous factors related to residential or commercial work; the application type, insulation or roofing; and, the anticipated amount of time you expect to dedicate to each job. These aspects also directly relate to how you should equip your mobile spray rig.

We also urge new contractors to figure out what they will be spraying first before making any major purchases. By making this determination, you can better understand which size generator, air compressor, and style rig you need.

Experts in a recent Spray Foam Magazine article suggest considering the answers to these questions to help better zoom in on your specific equipment needs:

- Do you build homes? If so, do you need consistent power sources on your job sites?
- Do you specialize in wall insulation? Do you spray roofs?
- Do you offer services that focus on SPF application for commercial and industrial roofs, air barrier systems, or larger, more extensive jobs?



Here are some additional areas to consider when thinking about what spray foam equipment to buy:

- **Part-time Versus Full-Time Work.** If you plan to tackle random, part-time SPF jobs on residential projects that involve small- to medium-output applications, you may want to choose a smaller, cost-effective electric proportioner. On the other hand, if you want to work in a full-time capacity, we suggest opting for a higher-output machine designed specifically for larger applications. Also, if you plan to offer SPF roofing services, you should invest in a larger, hydraulic machine that can help you avoid running out of output on the job.
- **Hose Length.** The SPF application type generally determines the length of hose you will need. For example, for the majority of commercial roofing applications, you need more hose than traditional insulation applications. However, for residential insulation projects, approximately 200 feet of hose length is enough. If you plan to take on commercial roofing projects, you should opt for the maximum amount of hose possible, at least 400 feet or more.
- **Spray Gun Type.** There are numerous top-rate options available on the market in the spray gun department. Many of our customers often choose the **Graco Fusion Air-Purge (AP)**, the **Graco Clearshot**, and the **Probler 2**.
- **Generator Size.** According to Graco, you should use the following steps to figure out the right size generator for your specific business needs:
 - o List system components that utilize peak load requirements (in watts);
 - o Add the wattage required by these components;
 - o Determine the answer to: Total watts x 1.25 = kVA (kilovolt-amperes);
 - o Choose a generator size that is equal (or greater) than the kVA.

Your Mobile Rig: Style and Size Matter

Before buying the first rig you find, it is essential to think about whether you want a box truck, gooseneck, or tag-along trailer. Or, perhaps you want to invest in a rig that is fully unique and custom-made.

Again, if you are a newcomer to the SPF industry, consider the particular nature of your SPF business in relation to your mobile rig size. We do not recommend investing in more space than you need, especially if you are just starting out in the industry.

For example, most trucks can tow box trailers. Alternatively, gooseneck rigs often require a fifth wheel and specialized driver's license. Box trailers are easy to move and navigate. However, if the majority of your work will focus on larger-scale projects, gooseneck rigs have the added advantage of added cargo space.

You also need to factor in door configuration when rig shopping. Do you want your mobile spray rig doors to be barn-style, or do you want ramps for entering and exiting? Based on our experience, ramp-style doors can allow you to roll your drums and transfer them into your rig easily. Alternatively, some contractors tell us they actually prefer barn-style doors as they can fit in compact spots, are easy to load with a forklift, and are easier to use in harsh weather conditions.



A Look Inside Your Rig: What Do You Need?

In most cases, SPF insulation projects require about two or three sets of foam insulation material, so we suggest that you always store at least this much product in your spray foam rig.

Besides, the majority of SPF contractors do not spray more than this amount in a single day due to less trigger time as they have to navigate from room to room carefully, or through basements, crawlspaces, or attics.

Most mobile spray rigs feature a sectioned-off work area with a toolbox; an area for your machinery, including your proportioner, or spray foam machine, spray guns, heated hoses, a generator, drum heaters, pumps, and your compressor; and, a material storage area.

Here are some additional tools we suggest you always have on hand in your rig's toolbox:

- Power washers
- Plastic sheeting and tape
- Industrial fans
- Backpack blowers/brooms
- Moisture strips



Optimize Your Spray Foam Insulation Equipment Investment

There is no denying that buying spray foam insulation equipment is a significant investment.

With careful planning and consideration of how you work, you can better optimize your investment and ensure that your SPF equipment will meet your needs now and in the future as your business grows.

At Intech Equipment & Supply, we can steer you in the right direction when it comes to picking the right spray foam insulation equipment for your business. We offer a wide range of foam insulation equipment for sale, as well as customer service and technical support.

Contact us today for details.

