

APPLICATION TIP SHEET

Powder fluidization do's and don'ts

Problem. Powder is supposed to flow like water in the fluid container. Poor fluidization is recognizable in a slow and noncontinuous transport of the powder coating from the fluid container to the guns. No homogenous powder cloud is achieved.

Solutions. If the fluidizing air is too low or too high, change the pressure or use a larger hose diameter. Check the fluidizing plate for defects. If you find any, replace the plate. Check for clogging in the fluidizing plate. If you find a buildup of materials, clean the plate.

Sometimes, oil remnants can contaminate the compressed air. Check the filter in front of the coating booth for contaminants. Other problems contributing to poor fluidization include powder reclaim that is too fine. Or you could have a high overspray ratio. If you find these problems, add virgin powder or change the powder.

Moisture can also affect fluidization of the powder. Keep the powder dry and store at room temperature, which shouldn't exceed 77°F. If the powder in the carton is very hard or lumpy, you will need to strain the powder. Don't set the fluidizing plate to continuous operation if the powder is lumpy.

Excessive temperatures in the coating system can also affect fluidization. Check the temperatures in the system and provide circulation. Either cool or reconstruct your system to encourage proper fluidization. PC

*Thanks to Tiger Drylac USA,
Ontario, Calif.; 909/930-9100
[www.tigerdrylac.com].*