

SEALTITE™ PRO FAQ

► **IS SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM INSULATION SAFE?**

Yes. When installed correctly, spray polyurethane foam is odorless and inert. Spray polyurethane foam is made with the same chemical types used to make all other polyurethanes including memory foam mattresses, furniture foam, and spandex. The only difference between SPF and other polyurethanes is that SPF is manufactured at the job site and not in a typical manufacturing setting.

► **ARE THERE ANY FIRE RATED SPRAY FOAM INSULATION PRODUCTS?**

Not exactly. Fire rating typically refers to the length of time that various types of assemblies will contain a fire or retain their structural integrity, or both. Individual products, including SPF, cannot have fire ratings, but can be tested in fire rated assemblies. Some spray polyurethane foam products have been tested and approved for use in various fire rated wall and ceiling/roof assemblies.

► **WHAT IS A FLASH AND BATT WALL SYSTEM?**

Flash and batt refer to combining closed-cell spray polyurethane foam with fibrous insulation in wall cavities to gain the benefits of closed-cell foam while minimizing costs in colder climate zones. Flash and batt systems require at least 2-inches of closed-cell foam in climate zones 5 and 6 to be effective. Installing less than 2-inches in flash and batt assemblies increases the risk for condensation in the wall cavity during the winter months.

► **ARE ASTM E-84 CLASS A SPRAY POLYURETHANE FOAM PRODUCTS WITH REPORTED VALUES LOWER THAN 25 FSI AND 450 SDI INHERENTLY SAFER THAN OTHER CLASS A PRODUCTS?**

No, all class A products should be considered equivalent regardless of the reported FSI and SDI values. The ASTM E-84 is the standard test method for assessing the surface burning characteristics of building products to explore how the material might contribute to flame spread in the event of a fire. The test method provides three classifications, Class A (FSI < 25, SDI < 450), Class B (FSI < 75, SDI < 450), and Class C (FSI < 200, SDI < 450). Due to the nature of the ASTM E84 test method, the reported FSI and SDI values can vary within the classification ranges. The ASTM test method sets the classification ranges specifically to compensate for expected variations inherent in the test method. Attaining specific values are generally not repeatable; however, Class A products routinely meet the classification type requirements.

► **WHY DO SPF PRODUCTS HAVE DIFFERENT RE-ENTRY AND RE-OCCUPANCY TIMES?**

The re-entry and re-occupancy times listed on product data sheets are determined by industrial hygienists, who review the product's Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) emission profile and determine when any residual chemicals generated from the spray process are below recommended safety limits. Re-entry and re-occupancy times have been decreasing over the past several years as spray foam manufacturers attempt to differentiate their products. However, re-entry and re-occupancy times have very little to do with the product chemistry and more about the ventilation during and post installation. Products that claim 1-hour or 2-hour re-entry and re-occupancy times should contain footnotes that state under what ventilation conditions. These aggressive times typically require ventilation rates of up to 40 ACH.

► **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF NO MIX OPEN CELL SPF PRODUCTS?**

No mix type open-cell spray polyurethane foam products reduce the material preparation steps ensuring a more consistent installation. No mix products remove one key variable from the installation equation that simplifies the installation and minimizes the risk of human error. In addition, no mix products are ideal for applicators who predominately spray closed-cell products and don't normally maintain functioning mixers on their rig. No mix products also save material preparation time on multi-set projects.

► **CAN SPRAY FOAM INSULATION BE USED TO BLOCK RADON?**

Yes. Due to the air-sealing properties, closed-cell spray polyurethane foam can be installed under a concrete slab or foundation to block the migration of radon into a building envelop. Studies show that closed-cell foam provides 11 times more resistance to radon migration than 6-mil polyethylene, which could potentially eliminate the need for active radon mitigation strategies such as a continuous mechanical fan and dedicated pipe.

► **CAN OPEN-CELL SPF BE USED IN COLD CLIMATE ZONES?**

Yes, when used in combination with an approved Class II vapor retarder applied in direct contact with the SPF insulation. Meeting wall cavity R-value requirements in 2" x 6" framing may require the use of a 0.75 pcf density foam. Because attics do not have the same thicknesses limitations, any open-cell SPF may be installed.

► **WHY DO I HAVE TO USE SEALTITE PRO VRC-2 AS A VAPOR RETARDER COATING AND NOT A VAPOR RETARDER COATING SOLD BY TYPICAL PAINT MANUFACTURERS?**

SealTite PRO VRC-2 was developed specifically to be applied over open-cell SPF. The vapor retarder coatings produced by typical paint manufacturers are not tested or approved for use on open-cell SPF. Vapor permeance tests of these vapor retarder coatings applied to open-cell SPF performed by third-party independent laboratories show that the effective mil thickness rates when installed on open-cell SPF deviates from the product's recommended rate for drywall applications. Application to open-cell SPF requires up to 8 coats of paint. SealTite PRO VRC-2's engineered viscosity and adhesive nature allows an applicator to build to the the required thickness in 1-coat. SealTite PRO VRC-2 is the only product evaluated by IAPMO and listed on SealTite PRO product evaluation reports.

► **IF HIGH YIELD OPEN-CELL PRODUCTS PROVIDE MORE COVERAGE, WHY WOULD I EVER USE A STANDARD OPEN-CELL FOAM?**

High Yield open cell products provide for a greater opportunity for more coverage per set of foam because the density of high yield foams is typically 0.4 to 0.45 pcf compared to standard open-cell foams that are 0.5 pcf. This slightly lower density translates to 10-20% more potential coverage. Due to their extra-low density, high yield foams often require additional material preparation procedures and are often more likely to be influenced by the environmental conditions. Depending on the climate, standard open-cell foams may provide an easier and efficient installation.

