



Spark Plugs For Automobile Dealerships



Compressed Air

Compressed air is not anything to play with and must always be respected and used in a safe manner.

Before grabbing an air hose and going into action, think about the safety precautions that must be applied at all times:

First, be sure that it's an air line you have, not a gas or water hose.

The fittings and valves should look different, but sometimes hose lines cross, and you could be easily confused. Always take time to assure you are using compressed air each and every time.

Check to be sure the air hose is in good condition. The hose is designed to withstand pressure, but it becomes weakened at places where it is bent, attached to a shut off valve and to the nozzle, and wherever it's been kinked.

Such weak points may swell like a balloon and burst, throwing pieces of hose in every direction. This may also cause the hose to thrash about dangerously.

These precautions should be followed:

- Keep air hoses off the floor where they create a trip hazard and subject to damage by trucks, doors, and dropped tools.
- Prevent sharp objects-even hose fittings that have burrs from rubbing against the hose.
- Always coil the hose-without kinks-and hang it over a broad support, not over a hook, nail, or angle iron, when not in use

Where you have a choice of pressure, use the lowest pressure that will do the job. There are many good reasons for this, and here are a few:

- Air pressure of 40 lbs. can drive chips, as well as scale, from inside the piping into your face and eyes with the force of shrapnel.
- Air pressure against the skin may penetrate deeply to cause internal hemorrhage and intense pain.
- Air that enters body openings can burst internal organs and cause death.
- Air, even at 40 lbs., can blow an eye from its socket or rupture an ear drum.

Certainly, no one would intentionally cause such injuries, however every so often someone does, either accidentally or simple ignorance, a joke to some or, they just don't care.

But when something bad happens or goes wrong it's a different story and then they want medical treatment and it's someone else's fault.

The nozzle of an air hose is a deadly weapon.

- Don't point it at anyone, not even yourself.
- Use safer and better ways of cleaning dust from your clothes such as vacuum cleaning or brushing.
- Dust blown into the air ends up in our lungs, and that's not where we want it.

In a few cases, standard safety procedures should be established to assure air hoses are handled only by trained employees. The following rules should be incorporated into your air-hose safety program:

- Use low pressure, 30 lbs. or less and the right nozzle. OSHA clearly indicates the maximum level of air pressure that is to be used for "cleaning" purposes. Visit www.OSHA.gov for further information.
- Wear cup-type goggles

Set up shields or curtains to protect passers-by and others working or walking in the areas.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact your local PMA Risk Control Consultant.

IMPORTANT NOTICE - The information and suggestions presented by The PMA Companies in this Risk Control *Spark Plug* are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related, or other laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter them to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.