

## Does Your Sandblaster Clog a lot During Blasting?

It could be related to several factors. First, it is important to have an air compressor that is sized to the type of sandblaster you are using. For example, if your blast gun has a CFM rating of 12, you typically need to have an air compressor that delivers 12 CFM at between 90-100 psi (ratings can be found on the air compressor or instructions). Horsepower and air tank capacity should also be considered based on the amount of blasting you do in a day. For continuous blasting, a vertical 5 or 6 HP, 220V, 60 gallon tank air compressor is recommended.

Second, it is necessary to have an air filter attached to the sandblaster at the point the compressed air enters the system as this will trap oil and water. As air is compressed, so is the moisture in the air causing water droplets to line the plumbing. This moisture will eventually end up in the abrasive media causing it to clump. Oil can also leak lightly from the compressor causing the same effect as moisture.

Another common cause of clogging is unfiltered abrasive media. When pouring used media back into your pressure-pot or siphon system, it is recommended to filter the grit using a screen to remove bits of glass and other contaminants that enter your system. Larger pieces will clog the plumbing and your nozzle and may even cause premature wear on the entire system. Finally, good maintenance of your system is recommended. Follow the maintenance schedule suggested by the sandblast cabinet manufacturer or call them for more information.