



## Getting the best out of your spray equipment

If you have always wondered what all the numbers mean in the tip descriptions here's the easy way to decipher them... Take the first digit and multiply by 2 – that gives you the width of the fan. For example, a 515 would be a 10 inch fan (i.e. 5 x 2). The second and third digits tell you the size of the hole, therefore a 515 would be a 15 hole size.

### Tip 1: The orifice size alone determines flow rate of tip

If you want to cover a greater area with each pass do not try to do this by backing the gun away from the surface. The further away you are the less paint will reach the surface and the more you'll waste as overspray. Instead, use a tip with a larger fan and orifice. Remember if you use a tip with a larger fan but not a larger orifice, the build will be less and you'll have to move the gun slower.

### Tip 2: Make sure tip and sprayer are rated for each other

Always make sure that the flow rate for the tip is lower than the maximum flow rate for the sprayer. If the tip flow rate is LESS than the sprayer flow rate you're all ok to go. If the tip flow rate is GREATER than the sprayer flow rate, you'll have to change either your tip or sprayer so that the sprayer flow rate is greater than the tip flow rate.

### Recommended tip sizes for common coatings

Material	Tip size (in.)
Stain or lacquer	.011 to .013
Solventborne paint	.013 to .015
Waterborne paint	.015 to .019
Heavy acrylic and smooth elastomeric	.021 to .025
Elastomeric and block filler	.025 to .035+

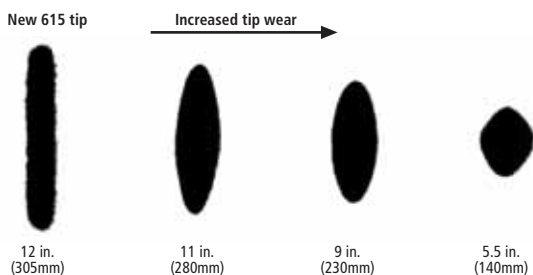
### Can you afford the high cost of using a worn tip?

Choosing the right spray tip is essential for a quality finish no matter what material is being sprayed, but don't forget to check and replace your tips as all tips will wear with normal use. It's impossible to say how long a tip will last, because there is a huge difference in abrasiveness from one coating to another. Waterborne coatings are usually more abrasive than lacquers or enamels and paint is sprayed at different pressures so some tips will wear faster than others. Abrasive material sprayed at too high a pressure or through too small a tip causes faster tip wear, which wastes time and paint.

Just think... A contractor spraying with a worn tip uses, on average, 20% more paint and 20% more labour. In short, while you'll pay a bit more money in tips you'll pay a lot more if you don't.

### How do you determine if a tip is worn?

When a spray tip wears, the orifice gets bigger and rounder, which makes the fan pattern smaller. When the fan has lost 25% of its original size, it is time to replace the tip. When a tip with a 12 in. (305mm) fan wears down to a 9 in. (230mm) fan, it outputs 30% more paint on 25% less area. Continuing to spray with a worn tip makes the painting take longer, you use more paint and the finish may be uneven and have runs.



### Five (six) ways to extend tip life

1. Spray at the lowest pressure that atomises the material.
2. Strain the material before you spray it.
3. Use the correct size filters.
4. Clean the filters after every use.
5. Clean the tip with a soft-bristled brush.
6. Work less (only an option if you don't have a mortgage to pay off!)

So if you forget everything else, make sure you have the right tip in good nick otherwise your profits will be sprayed away in excess paint and labour.

### Manifold and tip filters

When selecting the right filter set up for your spray system there are a few basic rules that are well worth following. If your tip size is...

1. .007 thou to .011 thou, use a 200 mesh filter.
2. .012 thou to .014 thou, use a 100 mesh filter.
3. .015 thou to .021 thou, use a 60 mesh filter.
4. .023 thou or more for high build coatings, use a 30 mesh filter.

Using the right filter and regularly cleaning it will reduce tip clogging.

Filters must be free of all material after cleaning – if they aren't then it's time to replace them.

### Airless hoses

Selecting the best diameter hose to meet your length requirements is critical to getting a good spraying pressure. The greater the hose diameter the greater the pressure at the gun. If you decrease the diameter or reduce the hose length, the pressure at the gun will reduce.

When joining hoses together, connect the largest diameter hose to the sprayer, then the smaller hose to that.

For example, unit connected to 3/8 hose connected to 1/4 inch hose will give maximum pressure when spraying.

High build coatings require a larger diameter hose (3/8) to minimise the risk of tailing.

### Health and safety

At all times use and follow the manufacturer's directions and wear the appropriate gear.

## And if technology is not your cup of tea, you might just empathise with these people struggling with their computers...

**Tech support:** What kind of computer do you have?

**Customer:** A white one.

**Tech support:** Click on the 'my computer' icon on to the left of the screen.

**Customer:** Your left or my left?

**Customer:** Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'can't find printer', I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor but the computer still says it can't find it.

**Tech support:** Your password is the small letter 'a' as in apple, a capital V as in victor, the number 7

**Customer:** Is that 7 in capital letters?

**Customer:** I can't get on the internet.

**Tech support:** Are you sure you used the right password?

**Customer:** Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague.

**Tech support:** Can you tell me what the password was?

**Customer:** Five stars.

**Tech support:** How may I help you.

**Customer:** I'm writing my first email.

**Tech support:** Ok and what seems to be the problem?

**Customer:** Well I have the letter 'a' in the address but how do I get the circle around it?

A customer called the helpdesk with a problem with their printer.

**Tech support:** Are you running it under windows?

**Customer:** No my desk is next to the door, but that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window and his printer is working fine.



More news next month!

TwoCan, Editor.

