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## AIR BASICS

**Air is the life blood of the body shop so having enough air is critical.** Starting with the compressor you should have a two-stage compressor to handle the volume of air needed to run all of the air powered tools. Utilizing two pistons, 2-stage units compress the air twice, delivering more air power than smaller compressors. Two-stage compressors can create up to about 90 CFM.

**CFM is the most important factor in determining what size air compressor works for you.** Every air tool has a CFM requirement. The higher the CFM, the more air volume the tool uses. Many shops will power multiple air tools off one air compressor. Regardless of how many tools you are running simultaneously, you will need to estimate how much CFM you will need to power at any given time. Total the CFM of tools in use and make sure the compressor can handle the work load. Some shops use a separate compressor for the paint booth, if not be sure to also calculate your paint gun CFM usage, you do not want to run low on air and jeopardize the quality of your paint job.

**Air leaks** at hoses and fittings can leak a lot of CFM so repair all leaks, if it keeps your compressor from running one or two cycles a day it will save you money.

**Air volume** to your paint gun is critical, you should have a minimum of a 3/8 air hose and use high flow fittings in your booth and on your gun. Your paint gun will not work properly without the correct amount of air.

If you are running out of air or just have questions, have one of the staff at **Auto Body Supply** calculate your air needs and help you come up with a solution to your problems.



## Cold Weather Clearcoat Curing Tips

Cold weather is upon us. Snow is on the ground and it's barely 20°F outside. Your clearcoat doesn't seem to be curing. Why?

Cold temperatures can have a significant impact on the curing of urethane coatings. As temperatures drop, the curing process slows down and can even stop when temperatures drop below 60°F in your shop. These conditions can result in a finish that may eventually dry, but will exhibit reduced durability, gloss, and repairability. Therefore, it is important to ensure your products, your substrate, and ambient spray temperature are all above 60°F to insure proper curing of your paint film.

### Before you begin painting, remember these tips:

- If you store your products in an unheated area, make sure they are brought in to warm above 60°F prior to mixing.
- Make sure your ambient booth temperature is well above 60°F.
- If the car you will be working on has been sitting outside or in a cold shop, make sure it has been given time to warm in the booth to raise the metal temp above 60°F.

Remembering these tips as temperatures plummet will help to ensure a successful paint job!



James Hetfield, Lead Singer of Metallica, is the proud owner of The Black Pearl painted with PPG by Darryl Hollenbeck. Winner of the Goodguys 2014 Custom Car of the Year, The Black Pearl features a luscious deep black offering a perfect contrast to the brushed brass trim.



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