

Compressed Air for Cleaning

TRADE: GENERAL CONSTRUCTION

LEADER GUIDE: 8-12 MINUTES

USE WHAT FITS TODAY

LEADER NOTE

Do not read this sheet word-for-word. Pick the sections that match today's task, point to the actual equipment/work area, and get the crew to answer the questions out loud.

WHY THIS MATTERS

Use this leader guide before compressed air for cleaning work to review the real setup, the controls that need to be in place, and the conditions that should stop the task. Pressure testing and compressed-fluid work store energy in hoses, fittings, plugs, caps and the test medium. A small component failure can release parts or a hose with violent force. The crew needs a controlled test boundary, rated components, gradual pressurization and a clear depressurization method before anyone approaches the system.

A SCENARIO TO DISCUSS

During Compressed Air for Cleaning, pressure is being raised when a hose, fitting, cap, plug, restraint, or gauge begins leaking, moving, vibrating, or behaving differently. Nobody has been struck. What is the safe sequence before anyone approaches the connection?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

- Confirm the test medium, target pressure, rated components and relief/depressurization method before pressurizing.
- Inspect hoses, fittings, caps/plugs, gauges, restraints and valves and remove questionable components from the test.
- Establish a test boundary/line-of-fire zone and keep people clear while pressure is raised or held.
- Do not use compressed air to clean clothing or skin; chips and contaminants can be driven into eyes or tissue.
- When compressed air is used for cleaning, use the required pressure reduction, guarding and PPE for the task.

SAFE WORK SEQUENCE / CONTROLS

- Do not use compressed air to clean clothing or skin; chips and contaminants can be driven into eyes or tissue.
- When compressed air is used for cleaning, use the required pressure reduction, guarding and PPE for the task.
- Control flying debris so nearby workers are not exposed and use vacuum/wet methods when they control the material better.
- Inspect hoses, couplings and nozzles and isolate pressure before clearing a blockage or changing components.

QUESTIONS THAT SHOULD CHANGE THE JOB

1. What pressure are we testing/using, what are the rated limits of every component in the test path, and where is that information verified?
2. Where is the line of fire if a hose, cap, plug, fitting, gauge, or connection fails, and how are we keeping people out?
3. How will pressure be raised, monitored, isolated, and safely released before anyone adjusts or disconnects the system?

COMMON FAILURE POINTS

- Standing in front of a cap, plug, fitting, hose or connection while the system is pressurized.
- Using a component, hose, gauge or restraint without confirming its rating/condition for the test pressure.
- Troubleshooting a leak or moving a connection before the system is isolated and fully depressurized.

STOP AND RESET IF...

- The test pressure, rated capacity, medium, connection method or relief path is unknown or does not match the plan.
- A hose, fitting, plug, gauge, valve, cap or restraint leaks, moves, bulges, vibrates or shows damage.
- People cannot be kept out of the line-of-fire/test boundary or the system cannot be safely depressurized before adjustment.

4. What leak, movement, vibration, bulging, gauge behavior, or other sign means we stop the test and depressurize before troubleshooting?
5. What is the safe sequence before anyone approaches the connection?

MAKE IT REAL ON THE JOB

Point out the pressurized test boundary, line-of-fire locations, gauge/relief point and the exact place pressure will be safely released.

BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE CREW

Before the crew starts, everyone should be able to explain the hazard, point to the control being used today, and name the condition that would make the work stop.



ATTENDANCE & SIGN-OFF

Compressed Air for Cleaning

Project / Job:		Date:	
Talk leader:		Location:	

CREW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing, attendees confirm they participated in this toolbox talk and had the opportunity to raise job-specific questions. Signatures do not replace required training, qualifications, permits or certifications.

#	Name	Company / Trade	Signature
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QUESTIONS / CONDITIONS / CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

END-OF-TALK CHECK

☐ Crew can point to the main hazard.	☐ Critical control is in place and usable.
☐ The responsible person/check is clear.	☐ Stop/re-brief conditions were discussed.