Viscosity - Step by step

Viscosity is the given term that measures how thick or thin the material is. The thicker a material is, the more viscous it is said to be. Viscosity is measured in time. Specifically the time it takes to flow through a special tool, called a viscosity cup. Proper viscosity ensures optimum material flow and should be measured BEFORE application.

Step 1 - Check your product information sheet for three items:

- The material's viscosity time
- The proper viscosity cup
- The material's required application temperature range

Step 2 - Stir the contents of the material.

Step 3 - Measure your materials current temperature. Ensure that it is 77 degrees. It may seem obvious, but it's important to understand that temperature affects a material's viscosity. The colder the material, the thicker it becomes.

Step 4 - Slowly immerse the viscosity cup into the material, until it is completely submerged, approximately an inch from the top of the coating

Step 5 - With your stopwatch in your free hand, lift the viscosity cup out of the material, and immediately start the watch. The material will start to drain from the base of the cup.

Step 6 - Pay close attention to this stream. As soon as you see a distinctive 'break' in the constant flow of material, stop the watch.

Step 7 - Confirm that the time on the stopwatch matches the viscosity time from your product information sheet.

If so, you're good to go. If not, double check to make sure all of your measurements are still correct. If everything checks out, adding a recommended reducer may be necessary.

Carefully checking your viscosity regularly will ensure that you get great results.

- Always refer to your (MSDS) Material Safety Data Sheet for proper (PPE) Personal Protective Equipment.

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