

Technical Bulletin

NFTB230

FOAM CONCENTRATE STORAGE TANK CLEANING PROCEDURE

National Foam recommends that the foam concentrate storage tank be cleaned and flushed any time the foam concentrate supply has been depleted or at a change of type of foam concentrate. Use this opportunity to recheck piping, shutoff valves and check valves. Also, thoroughly clean the concentrate tank before it is initially filled with foam concentrate.



WARNING:

Regard tanks as confined spaces. Follow proper entry procedures.

1. Drain any remaining or unused foam concentrate from the tank. If the concentrate is to be reused, be sure to put it in clean containers.
2. Rinse tank with a hose using hottest water available (steam cleaning is an option if tank material construction is suitable). Remove all oils, grease or foreign matter that may be present in the tank. Drain and collect rinse water for disposal.
3. Inspect the inside of the tank for potential mechanical failures.
4. Scrape out any remaining rust or sediment.



CAUTION:

With plastic concentrate storage tanks, extreme care must be taken when scraping the inside of the tank. Never use a sharp instrument, a grinding tool or any other type of tool or implement which could cut or damage the walls of the tank.

5. Scrub tank with a detergent solution using hottest water available.
6. If possible, vigorously agitate or recirculate the detergent solution in tank to thoroughly clean. Drain and collect for disposal.
7. Rinse thoroughly with clean fresh water, collecting water for disposal.

NOTE: In certain cases where washing and flushing do not sufficiently clean the tank, a stronger cleaning agent may be needed. If this is the case, follow additional procedures "A" thru "E" only after it has been determined that normal "water only" flushing is not sufficient:

- a. Wash tank with a detergent solution.
 - b. Rinse with water.
 - c. Fill with clean fresh water and add approximately 1 or 2 lbs. caustic soda per 100 gallons.
 - d. Soak for 1 or 2 hours.
 - e. Drain, rinse and dry tank, collecting water for disposal.
8. Make sure all washing water has been thoroughly drained and tank is completely dry. Refill with foam concentrate.
 9. When returning foam concentrate to the tank, make sure it is run through a strainer or screen to assure that any solid particles which may be present are removed.

10. Clean and inspect the pressure vacuum vent when cleaning the foam concentrate storage tank or on a regular semi-annual maintenance service schedule.

NOTE: After draining the foam concentrate and initial flushings, high pressure water or steam tank cleaning devices may be profitably used. The major caution required is to have a clean, dry tank prior to filling with foam concentrate.

NOTE: Before refilling with foam concentrate, the tank shall be inspected carefully to make sure that all surfaces and connections are still sound.

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