



TOOL FACTS

TF-003

ALL ABOUT WHIP HOSES

WHY USE WHIP HOSES? WHAT PURPOSE DO THEY SERVE?

By Andrew Mayer

These are the two most commonly asked questions. Usually they are installed on tools for comfort. The whip hose allows you to drop down in size and weight from the standard $\frac{3}{4}$ " compressor hose. What we mean by "*dropping down*" is the $\frac{3}{4}$ " inch air hose being so heavy, a smaller diameter, $\frac{1}{2}$ " whip hose is installed to reduce the overall weight of the tool. If you have ever tried running a tool for any length of time you know how beneficial any reduction in weight can be.

Whip hoses can be made using different diameter hoses. For construction tools, the whip diameter should be $\frac{1}{2}$ ". This size allows you to run all of the small to medium size tools made. For the larger tools, such as the 60 lb. and 90 lb. Breakers, they can be run directly connected to the $\frac{3}{4}$ " primary line coming from the compressor. The bigger tools always should be run with the larger hose because they require (demand), a larger volume of air.

Air Volume is measured in C.F.M. or Cubic Feet per minute. Small to medium tools will always receive the air volume they need using $\frac{1}{2}$ " diameter whip hoses.

WHAT TYPE OF HOSE SHOULD BE USED TO MAKE WHIP HOSES?

If at all possible, an oil resistant hose should be used. If a non-oil resistant hose is used, the oil from the in-line oiler or from the compressor penetrates the hose and pretty soon the rubber becomes soft and distorted. When this happens, bits and pieces of the rubber break off, ending up inside the tool causing the tool to fail. Using an oil resistant hose will eliminate rubber deterioration and help keep a free flow of clean air to your tools.

When selecting your whip hose, length is also important. For construction tools, whip hoses should be made up at lengths of about 6' to 8' feet. This is normally the standard length, however, you can choose different lengths. There will be times in which the customer will insist on a specific length. When this happens, and you get a request for anything shorter than six feet, you should recommend against it. The reason for this is whip hose should be comfortable as well as accommodating. If you were to make the length under six feet, and the user were to hold the tool waist high or over his head, you

now would be adding the weight of the primary 3/4" hose, and likely also, an in-line oiler. The additional weight would become very cumbersome to the user.

SHOULD WHIP HOSES BE MOUNTED WITH IN-LINE OILERS?

Certainly not in every case are in-line oilers needed to be included onto whip hoses. But, it does become very necessary when the tool you are using does not have a built-in oil reservoir. Running the tool without oil increases friction and wear and becomes very costly. But, by adding an oiler to the whip hose, you now provide the tool with a constant supply of oil which is needed to ensure you get the maximum performance and life that should be expected from your tool.

Remember, whip hoses were designed to make getting the job done easier. When selecting a whip hose keep in mind what we have discussed earlier, and by all means take the time to find out if the tool is equipped with a built-in oiling system or not. If not, be sure to order your whip hose with an in-line oiler.