

VISCOSITY

Absolute (dynamic) viscosity is the property of a liquid which resists change in the shape or arrangement of its elements during flow. Liquid viscosity is a primary factor affecting spray pattern formation and, to a lesser degree, capacity. High viscosity liquids require a higher minimum pressure to begin formation of a spray pattern and provide narrower spray angles as compared to those of water. See the chart below for the general effects of viscosity other than water.

TEMPERATURE

The values given in this catalog are based on spraying water at 70°F (21°C). Although liquid temperature changes do not affect the spray performance of a nozzle, they often affect viscosity, surface tension and specific gravity which do influence spray nozzle performance. See the chart below for the effects of temperature changes on spray nozzle performance.

SURFACE TENSION

The surface of a liquid tends to assume the smallest possible size; acting, in this respect, like a membrane under tension. Any portion of the liquid surface exerts a tension upon adjacent portions or upon other objects with which it is in contact. This force is in the plane of the surface and its amount per unit of length is surface tension. Its value for water is about 73 dynes per cm at 70°F (21°C). The main effects of surface tension are on minimum operating pressure, spray angle and drop size.

The property of surface tension is more apparent at low operating pressures. A higher surface tension reduces the spray angle, particularly on hollow cone and flat fan spray nozzles. Low surface tensions can allow a nozzle to be operated at a lower pressure. See the chart below for the general effects of surface tension on spray nozzle performance.

SUMMARY OF SPRAY PERFORMANCE CONSIDERATIONS

The chart below summarizes the various factors that affect a spray nozzle's performance. However, because there are so many different types and sizes of spray nozzles, the effects may vary for your specific application. In some applications, there are interrelated factors which may counteract certain effects. For instance, in the case of a hollow cone spray nozzle, increasing the

temperature of the liquid decreases the specific gravity, thereby producing a greater flow rate while at the same time decreasing the viscosity which reduces the flow.

For assistance with your specific application, please contact your local Spraying Systems Co. sales engineer.

Nozzle Characteristics	Increase in Operating Pressure	Increase in Specific Gravity	Increase in Viscosity	Increase in Fluid Temperature	Increase in Surface Tension
Pattern Quality	Improves	Negligible	Deteriorates	Improves	Negligible
Drop Size	Decreases	Negligible	Increases	Decreases	Increases
Spray Angle	Increases then decreases	Negligible	Decreases	Increases	Decreases
Capacity	Increases	Decreases	Full/hollow cone – increases Flat – decreases	Depends on fluid sprayed and nozzle used	No effect
Impact	Increases	Negligible	Decreases	Increases	Negligible
Velocity	Increases	Decreases	Decreases	Increases	Negligible
Wear	Increases	Negligible	Decreases	Depends on fluid sprayed and nozzle used	No effect

