

Catalyst Pail Changing Procedure

Information pertaining to GE UltraGlaze* and GE RapidStrength* (Part B) Catalyst Pails

GE UltraGlaze SSG4400, SSG4600, SSG4650 and GE RapidStrength RGS7700 are two-component silicone adhesives supplied in a “kit” consisting of a 55-gallon drum of Base (part A) and a 5-gallon pail of Catalyst (part B). The following procedure is suggested for use when installing catalyst pails of SSG4400B, SSG4603B, SSG4607B, SSG4710B, SSG4713B or any RGS7700B into a pumping system.

These catalysts are sensitive to prolonged exposure to atmospheric moisture and the storage containers should be kept tightly closed. When exposed to the air, a crust will begin to form on the surface of the catalyst due to reaction of the catalyst with water vapor obtained from the air – the longer the exposure to air, the thicker the crust becomes. If the catalyst pail is installed in a pumping system after a crust has formed on the top of the pail or the underside of the pump follower plate, the crust will be broken up during the pumping and mixing. A filter should be installed in the pumping system with a filter screen no larger than 100 mesh. This will remove small amounts of broken up crust and prevent the mixed sealant from developing a gritty texture. Check & clean the filter as needed. An open pail of catalyst or a pump follower plate removed from an empty pail of catalyst should not be exposed to the open air for more than a few minutes (10-15). Exposure for longer periods may result in formation of sufficient quantities of hardened crust which may contribute to plugging any in-line filter(s).

During shipment and storage of the catalyst, some settling of components may occur. Settling will manifest itself as a separation of liquid on the top surface of the catalyst. If liquid separation of material is noticed upon opening of catalyst pails, the liquid can be shaken or stirred back into the material. Use care to avoid introducing air into the material if stirring. Again, keep in mind that the catalyst is sensitive to moisture so any stirring must be done in the shortest time possible.

The following procedure is recommended for installing GE 2-part product catalyst pails:

1. Move the fresh pail of catalyst next to the pump station.
2. Remove the cover from the fresh catalyst pail and quickly inspect for separation. a.) If there is separation, reincorporate the liquid* back into the material; loosely recover the pail, and proceed to step 3. b.) If there is no separation, loosely recover the pail and proceed to step 3.
3. Withdraw the pump follower plate from the empty catalyst pail and remove the empty pail from the equipment.
4. Remove the cover from the new catalyst pail, install the pail under the follower plate, and lower the follower plate into the pail with the vent valve open to evacuate air.
5. Relieve or reset downward air pressure on the pump elevator.
6. Start pump and finish evacuation of air using the bleed valve (see system operating procedures).

Ideally, the entire pail change-out process should take less than a handful of minutes thereby minimizing the chance of crust forming either in the pail or on the underside of the follower plate.

* See technical document: GE_UltraGlaze SSG4600 Part B Material Preparation