



American Compactor, Inc.

Why Pneumatics?

Frequently prospective customers ask American Compactor, Inc. why our compactors are powered with compressed air rather than hydraulics. There are many reasons why pneumatics are used as the power source and the points below will help to explain this in more detail.

Pneumatics Are Quiet – In most facilities noise generated by equipment can be a big concern. Compressed air is exceptionally quiet and is readily available in most facilities. The only noise that the compactors make is the sound of air filling and leaving the cylinder through exhaust ports. Hydraulics require a motor to move the compressed oil and can be very noisy.

Pneumatics Are Clean – When utilizing pneumatics as a power source the only force driving the compactor is compressed air. There is no hydraulic oil and high pressure hoses that can leak and cause a mess and poor equipment performance.

Pneumatics Require Little Maintenance – There is virtually no maintenance associated with our pneumatic compactors. The air is compressed, but not enough for a strain to be placed on the hoses or fittings. Hydraulics are extremely maintenance intensive and repairs are frequently time consuming and expensive.

Pneumatics Operate Quickly – Using compressed air enable the compactors to operate quickly. This means that your employees will be very efficient and not consume a lot of extra time while compacting. The total cycle time is between two and three times as fast when comparing our pneumatic compactors to comparable hydraulic compactors.

Pneumatics Are Easy To Install – It is much easier to run an air line to wherever the pneumatic compactor will be stationed than to wire electricity and an outlet for hydraulics.

Pneumatics Are Non-Sparking – When using pneumatics there is no chance for sparks from the power source and it will not heat up. However, because hydraulics are powered by electricity, sparks may be generated and the motor and hydraulic fluid will produce heat.

Pneumatics Are More Cost Effective – Pneumatics cost considerably less than hydraulics. There is no reason to pay a premium for the extra amount of force that will never be used.

Pneumatics Provide the Right Amount of Force – Materials such as paper, paint filters, disposable rags and wipes, and paint masking material are more than adequately compacted using pneumatics. A hydraulic compactor may offer more compaction force, but it is unnecessary. For example, if you have a 12 ounce aluminum beverage can and step on it with 150 pounds that can will be crushed. You can run a 4,000 pound car over the can and compact it a fraction more, but not enough to justify that much more force. The same is true with many materials that can be compacted.