

Book Bits: Advice for Using Grease Guns

From "Lubrication for Industry"

In order to move grease to the application point, it needs to be pumped. Most delivery systems for oil utilize pumps that work in the 50 psi (2.3 bar) to 250 psi (17.2 bar) range. Grease, on the other hand, requires a pump that will deliver pressure above 1500 psi (103 bar).

In the hands of an untrained operator, an ordinary grease gun can deliver a pressure of up to 15,000 psi (1030 bar)! A bearing seal, on the other hand, will rarely rate higher than 500 psi (35 bar). Once the seal on the bearing is compromised, the bearing is well on its way to early failure. A compromised bearing seal encourages dirt ingestion and over lubrication due to its lack of "back pressure" (this is especially true when greasing a bearing "blind" from a remote zerk fitting). The secondary negative effects produced are extra consumption of grease and extra time required for cleanup of equipment with the overflowed grease, inviting dirt and contaminants to stick to it. Respect the power of a lowly manual grease gun.

Maintenance Tip: Always ensure that the dispensing nozzle of the grease or oil gun is cleaned before use, and that the fitting it is attached to is also clean. This will safeguard against unnecessary introduction of dirt into the bearing.

[More information about the book "Lubrication for Industry"](#)