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# Fuel Line Hose: Small investment Reaps Big Benefits for Brand Equity

**By Lily Lei**

In today's dynamic and competitive world, consumers are looking for high performance tools but only willing to pay a certain price. From design and engineering to sourcing and production levels, corporate pressure on profitability demands employees develop innovative ways to reduce costs while improving product performance. This presents a great challenge for all manufacturers including those who make lawn and garden tools.

Obviously producing a piece of equipment requires a great deal of innovation in design and manufacturing processes. But less obvious, yet extremely important, is making the right decision when choosing critical, functional components such as the fuel system. This is not to say other components are not important, but for a gasoline powered tool, the fuel system is the single largest part that ensures the equipment works effectively.

A fuel system is composed of an engine, a carburetor, a fuel tank, a fuel filter and a fuel hose. Compared to an engine or a carburetor, a fuel hose is a small component and accounts for only a small fractional of the cost of an engine or carburetor. Nevertheless, it plays a vital role in ensuring the entire fuel system achieves maximum performance. Like an artery in a human heart which transfers oxygenated blood throughout a body, a fuel hose must sufficiently and effectively transfer enough fuel from the tank to the engine to generate the power desired to operate the equipment. Therefore, the quality of the fuel hose must meet all the design criteria to ensure not only equipment performance but safety as well. A fuel hose's flexibility, UV and ozone resistance, chemical compatibility, fitting retention and clarity are critical to ensure the utmost performance of the fuel system. Therefore, paying a little more to specify a high-quality, high-performance fuel hose is a small investment for power equipment manufacturers to reap big benefits for their brand equity.

Tygon® low permeation fuel hose manufactured by Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics is a recognized leading brand in the gasoline powered equipment market. The LP1200, LP1100 and LP1500 are all EPA and CARB certified and tailored to meet power equipment manufacturers' specific design needs.

Unlike some fuel hoses that tend to leave a black rubber residue in the fuel that may clog the system or prohibit fuel flow monitoring because of their opaque color, all Tygon® fuel hoses are engineered to be transparent or translucent for easier fuel flow observation. **Tygon® LP1200**, designed with a fluorpolymer liner that is compatible with 100% ethanol, maintains its flexibility even in subzero temperatures to ensure sufficient fuel pickup. **Tygon® LP1100**, also with a 100% ethanol compatible fluorpolymer liner, offers superior flexibility for non-submersible applications. **Tygon® LP1500**, designed for small handheld tools, provides excellent fitting retention. And just like LP1200 and LP1100, it can handle 10% ethanol blend gasoline.

With Tygon® benefits in mind and the knowledge that making a small investment in a high-performance fuel hose helps enhance brand equity through customer satisfaction with equipment that offers a long, worry-free service life, the choice should be pretty simple when selecting a fuel hose.

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***About Saint-Gobain***

*Saint-Gobain designs, manufactures and distributes materials and solutions which are key ingredients in the wellbeing of each of us and the future of all. They can be found everywhere in our living places and our daily life: in buildings, transportation, infrastructure and in many industrial applications. They provide comfort, performance and safety while addressing the challenges of sustainable construction, resource efficiency and climate change. With 2015 sales of $43.9 billion, Saint-Gobain operates in 66 countries and has more than 170,000 employees.*

*Saint-Gobain's Performance Plastics business is headquartered in Solon, Ohio, and employs 6,000 people in 22 countries. It is a world leader in high-performance plastics, including flexible tubing, seals, coated fabrics, foams, window film, barrier/release films, tapes, medical components, fluid handling systems and bearings.*

*Saint-Gobain's Process Systems business unit helps customers achieve safety, performance and brand assurance through a broad range of capabilities that rely on superior engineering and customer support. Our product applications include those in the food, beverage, habitat, aerospace, chemical and electronics sectors. We've helped customers in all of these industries achieve goals in innovation, efficiency, sustainability and product integrity through customized solutions such as flexible tubing, gaskets, seals, hoses, fittings, pumps, valves and manifolds.*

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