Stepp Ojk VS Crafco

The Stepp OJK-185 and 275 gallon kettle is like no other crack sealer on the market. With the low profile design, full flow heat exchanger, and on demand pumping system with the heated overhead boom make this a user friendly, heavy duty kettle that will give you years of reliable service.

Low profile

With the low profile rectangular tank it allows the driver to see the operator and lower loading heights when loading blocks.

Auger vs. paint mixer style agitator

The Stepp OJK utilizes a 6” auger mounted in the bottom of the kettle. The auger has a right hand flighting on half of the auger and a left hand flighting on the other half. This auger configuration allows the material to mix from the opposite ends of the kettle and pull the material to the center of the kettle. If the auger is reversed it moves the material from the center to the ends. With a vertical paint mixer style agitator it only allows the material to rotate.

The auger is surrounded with a 1” coil that has heat transfer oil circulated through it. This protects the auger from jamming or wedging blocks and also allows heating onto the center of kettle and allows the auger to be thawed out sooner.

Kubota vs. Isuzu Diesel Engine

The Stepp kettle uses a 25 hp liquid cooled Kubota D1105 engine to drive the hydraulic systems, 12 volt charging circuit and 24 v alternator. The Kubota engine is a more expensive engine with the reliability over the years warrants us using this engine. The Crafco unit uses an Isuzu 25 hp engine

Overhead boom

The Stepp unit utilizes a heated overhead boom system. The material flows through the overhead boom and attaches to the 12 foot hose to decrease the operator weight and prevent kinking and damage to the hose. This gives a 21 foot working radius. The Crafco unit uses an 18 foot hose that is attached to a hose hanger.

Full flow heat exchanger

On the OJk-185-275 we use a full flow heat exchanger heating system. This gives optimal burner efficiency. It also takes the intense heat and stress off of the main tank. The heat exchanger consists of a 420,000 Btu diesel burner, a stainless steel replaceable liner, a heat transfer circulating coil and a ceramic lined insulated box. The heat exchanger is located in the front of the tank. The burner fires into the stainless steel liner that is surrounded by the heating coil and then the exhaust gases travel through a flue that is submerged in the oil jacked and exits the exhaust stack. The oil that is circulated through the coil then travels to the coil that surrounds the auger and then dumps into the side walls into the oil jacket. This allows our hottest oil to be in the center of the kettle increasing the heat transfer area and speeding up the auger’s thawing process. The Crafco unit fires its diesel burner directly onto the bottom of the oil jacket exposing the tank to a possible burn out or leak with the intense heat up and cool down of the kettle.

Heat transfer capacity

Stepp OJK has a heat transfer oil capacity of 85 gallons. This allows the burner to fire longer and be off for longer periods of time. The Crafco kettle utilizes around 25 -35 gal of heat transfer oil which causes the burner to cycle more frequently. The Stepp kettle also utilizes a hot oil circulating pump which is required for the full flow heat exchanger. The circulating pump allows for more even heating and circulates the oil through the coils and the main tank. The Crafco kettle uses only convection. No circulating pump.

Stepp also has a higher flash point oil. This allows us to heat up faster, melt more material. Our system is rated to heat up to 600 degrees on our oil. Crafco is 500 degrees. Bigger heat differential the fast it heats.

Loading height

With the Stepp Ojk 275 design offers the lowest profile of any crack sealing kettle in the market. This allows the truck driver to have better visibility of the operator behind the kettle. It also has a lower loading height for loading your blocked materials.

Please review the attached specifications and if you have any questions or need clarifications please don’t hesitate to give me a call at 651.657.4491 Thank you

Jason Stepp

National Sales Manager

Stepp MFG CO INC