

GGR
GROUP

Wood's **Power-Grip** [®] CO., INC.
Authorized Service Center



Important Customer Announcement From Woods

GGR Group takes pride in our products and is committed to providing you with the best service available to operate your lifting equipment safely. Recently, instructions for Wood's Powr-Grip vacuum lifters have been updated with new guidance on appropriate operating temperatures and battery charge. Instructions now state that Woods lifters are to not be used in temperatures below 0°C [32°F] or with less than a 50% charge on the battery.

These guidelines have been revised due to the latest product testing and component specifications, including variations among different gauges, pumps and batteries.

By following our recommendations and compensating for them when necessary, operators may be able to safely use the vacuum lifter outside of the specifications. However, GGR Group cannot guarantee that lifters used outside the specifications will function correctly and safely.



Moisture

When a vacuum lifter is used in temperatures below freezing (32°F [0°C]), any water moisture entering the vacuum system may freeze. Ice in the system is a hazard because, as a solid, it can block airflow or interfere with seals, thus causing vacuum leaks. It also expands and can therefore cause damage to vacuum system components. As directed in the instructions, the operator must take care to make certain all air filters are emptied of any water that may have accumulated inside, and to make sure that the load is dry and completely free of any frost or ice on its surface. If these steps are carefully followed, then ice in the vacuum system should not be an issue.



Battery Charge

The level of battery energy has a direct effect on the ability of the vacuum pump to start and to restart under a load, as is necessary for a Woods Powr-Grip lifter to maintain sufficient vacuum for lifting. Electric motors require more current to start than they do to run continuously. In testing, standard batteries with a 50% charge (12.2 volts) at 0°C [32°F] were able to start the vacuum pumps employed on Powr-Grip lifters. However at colder temperatures or with less battery energy, the pumps did not start reliably. Safe operation of the vacuum lifter requires that the pump be able to start consistently before the system vacuum falls to 16" Hg [-54 kPa].

To counteract these problems, the operator can either warm the battery or charge the battery more fully prior to employing the lifter, thus enabling it to provide the needed current to start the pump. GGR Group cannot offer specific information about what charge a battery requires to function reliably at temperatures below 0°C [32°F]. However, in general, it is best in such instances to keep the battery fully charged and warm (eg, 70°F [21°C]) and then reinstall the battery on the lifter just before beginning a lift. It is also important to realize that the battery charge will not last as long in cold temperatures as it will in warm temperatures. In other words, while you may be able to accomplish 20 lifts a day during summer months, you are not likely to complete as many lifts in cold weather without charging or replacing the battery more frequently. GGR Group highly recommends that vacuum lifters are also kept in suitable storage conditions overnight. In our experience many problems have arisen from lifters being left outdoors on a cold night, a warm indoor area is much more suitable.

Your continued satisfaction with Woods Powr-Grip products hired or purchased from GGR Group is very important to us. If you have any questions or need further assistance, please contact us on [0161 683 2580](tel:01616832580) or info@ggrgroup.com

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