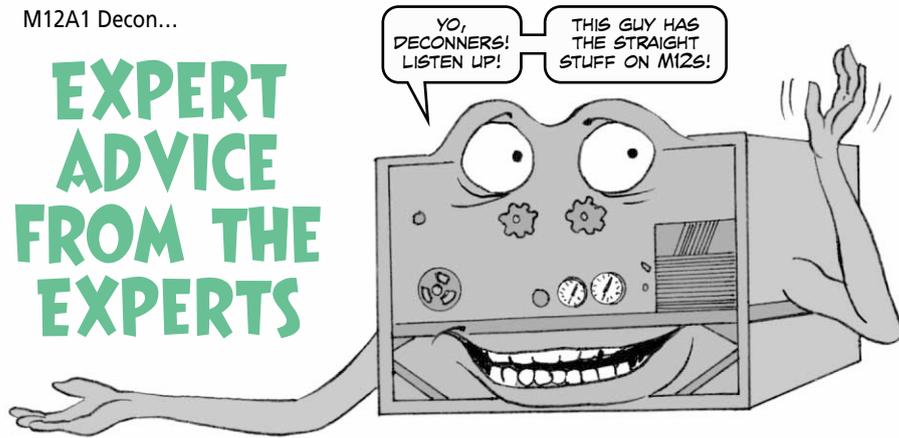


EXPERT ADVICE FROM THE EXPERTS

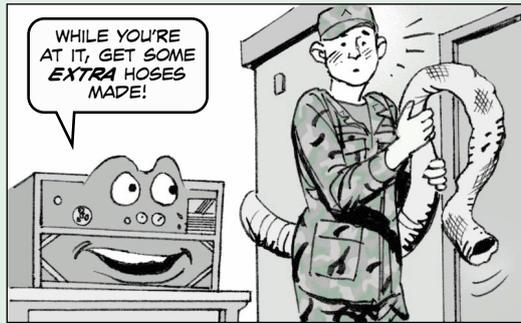


Dear Editor,

Through experience using and maintaining our M12A1 decons, we've come up with these suggestions for decontaminating potential problems:

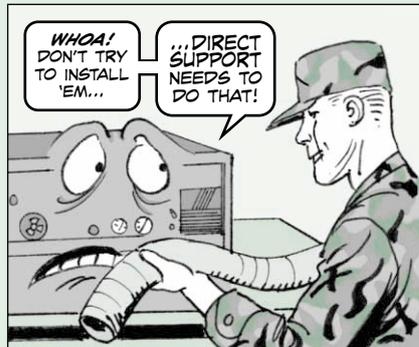
Have extra hoses made.

The discharge and eductor hoses are fabricated locally. When you need a hose replaced, go ahead and have several made. It doesn't cost that much more to have extras fabricated, it will give you on-hand replacements, and it will save you the trouble of getting a new hose fabricated every time one fails.



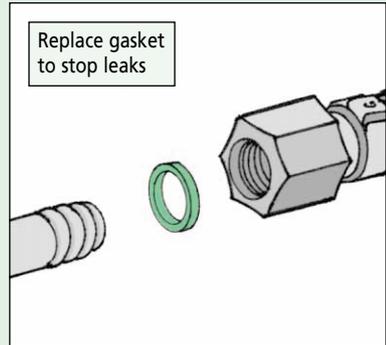
Don't put hoses together yourself.

The hoses are under great pressure during operation. It takes a special tool that units don't have to secure the clamps for the hoses. If the clamps aren't installed right, the hose can blow off and possibly injure somebody. At the very least, a blown hose will cause a huge mess. For the same reason, clamps other than those called out in TM 3-4230-209-20&P should never be used for the hoses. Substitute clamps—like those used on truck hoses—may not hold.



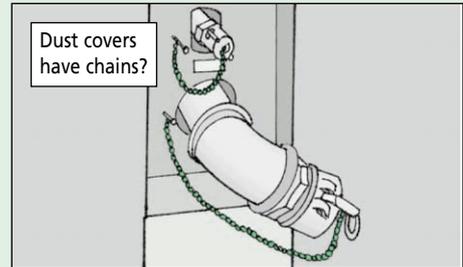
Put plumber's tape on the hose connections for the upper and lower hose reels.

If those connections leak, you'll have trouble building up water pressure and spraying. And it's hard to detect leaks at the connections because the hoses must be completely unreeled in order to check the connections. Put tape, NSN 8030-00-889-3535, on the connector threads and then screw in the hoses. That will help the connections hold their seals. Replace the tape quarterly. Also replace the rubber gaskets, NSN 5330-00-811-9471, but don't muscle the hose connection more than hand tight. That can crush the gasket.



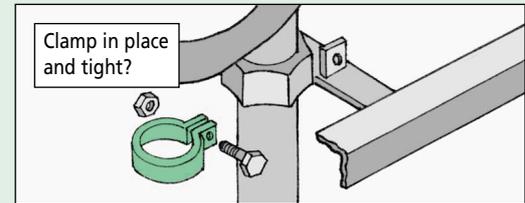
Check that the dust covers for the hose connections have chains and the chains are connected.

Water pressure can make projectiles out of the dust covers. The chains keep the covers from taking flight far enough to hurt you. Also check the dust covers' seals. A bad or missing seal makes it more likely that the dust cover blows off. The chains will also keep the covers handy for sealing openings when you disconnect the hoses.



Make sure the loop clamp that holds the pipe from the pump is in place and tight.

This clamp is often left off after repairs. Without the clamp holding the pipe tightly in place, vibration causes the pipe to leak and you can't build up water pressure. Make sure the clamp is still tight each month.



SSG Alfred Nieto
2d Chemical Bn
Ft Hood, TX

From the desk
of the *Editor*

*Great job, Sergeant.
These suggestions will help make
deconning safer and easier.*