

Hydraulic Tools vs. Pneumatic Tools

Issue	Hydraulic	score	Pneumatic	score
Life-Span	Hydraulic tools are known for their durability - It isn't uncommon for them to last 15+ years	+1	Pneumatic tools, if properly maintained, can be expected to last from 5-10 years	(-1)
Initial Cost	Initial cost of hydraulic tools is fairly significant; about twice the cost of pneumatic tools	(-1)	Initial cost of pneumatic tools is about half that of hydraulic tools	+1
Maintenance Required	Very little maintenance required, as internal parts are always bathed in oil. (General cleaning of tool after use, and keeping hydraulic couplers clean)	+1	Significantly more maintenance required for pneumatic tools than hydraulic tools. Includes draining moisture from air tanks, and constantly keeping tools oiled	(-1)
Noise	Hydraulic tools are very quiet	+1	Pneumatic tools are very loud , by comparison, and can even damage hearing in some situations.	(-1)
Confined Space Issues	None	+1	Exhaust air may contain oil or antifreeze, and the tool may be discharging contaminated air into the environment . Special precautions may be needed in confined or poorly ventilated spaces.	(-1)
Temperature	Hydraulic tools will operate in sub-zero temperatures. They will not freeze up.	+1	Due to moisture in the air, pneumatic tools can freeze up and become inoperable in freezing temperatures.	(-1)
Wet Conditions	Many hydraulic tools can be operated underwater.	+1	Water pumps aside (see below) pneumatic tools cannot be operated underwater	(-1)
Power	Hydraulic tools are more powerful , because they use pressurized liquid (oil) which does not compress like air does.	+1	Pneumatic tools cannot deliver the same power (especially when torque is required) as they are using pressurized air, which will compress.	(-1)
Broken Hose	Creates a mess, but not dangerous. As with pneumatic tools, a broken hose is never a good thing.	(-1)	Can become a safety hazard if the hose whips around uncontrollably . As with hydraulic tools, a broken hose is never a good thing.	(-1)
Tools Available	There are *far* more hydraulic tools available than pneumatic tools.	+1	There are fewer pneumatic tools available , in comparison to hydraulic tools	(-1)
Water Pumps	The largest hydraulic water pump available requires 9gpm, weighs 21lbs, and can pump up to 500gpm	+1	The largest pneumatic water pump available requires 110cfm, weighs 58lbs, and can pump up to 340gpm	(-1)
	The largest hydraulic trash pump available requires 9gpm, weighs 65lbs, and can pump up to 800gpm	+1	The largest pneumatic sludge/trash pump available requires 85cfm, weighs 152lbs, and can pump up to 250gpm	(-1)
Total Score	Out of 12	+10	Out of 12	(-11)

The great thing about [HIPPO Multipower Systems](#) is...you don't have to choose! We provide air **AND** hydraulic **AND** electric power! We give you the opportunity to always use the best tool for the job, period!