



Flame Resistant vs. Fire Retardant

Did you know that the terms Flame Resistant and Fire Retardant have significantly different meanings?

First, let's make things a little simpler by throwing out the words "flame" and "fire" as these are interchangeable. Now let's look at the two more significant terms of "resistant" and "retardant."

Resistant (Flame/Fire)

This term covers those materials that are inherently resistant to catching on fire and are self-extinguishing. These materials do not melt or drip when directly exposed to extreme heat. The flame/fire resistant protection does not wash out over time.

Note: In an arc flash scenario, you will want to use Flame Resistant products and not Flame Retardant. Products approved for arc flash will always have a calorie rating right on the label (i.e. 4.5 cal).

Retardant (Flame/Fire)

This term covers those materials that have been chemically treated to self-extinguish and without that chemical treatment would not be flame/fire retardant. The flame/fire retardant protection will wash out over time.

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