WHAT YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLANNING

① The fundamentals of cleaning technology

Sinner‘s circle

The Sinner‘s circle illustrates the interplay between the four main factors for successful cleaning:

- Chemistry (choice of cleaning agent)
- Mechanical (removal of soil via pressure or friction)
- Temperature (at which cleaning is performed)
- Time (duration of the total cleaning processes)

The proportion of the individual factors as a part of the entire cleaning can be varied, provided that the total is 100 per cent. This results in significant savings potentials.

As a result, the intensification of mechanical cleaning enables the consumption of cleaning agents or the duration of cleaning to be reduced. Consequently, the mechanical factor that takes up a greater part of the Sinner‘s circle, while the other factors can end up being reduced.

Cost reduction by efficient cleaning processes

This is precisely where our nozzles and rotating cleaning nozzles come into play, having been specially developed for delivering a high mechanical cleaning action. Their greater efficiency helps to permanently reduce on going costs for energy and cleaning agents, and also the duration of cleaning. Consequently a one-off investment in improved nozzle technology pays for itself after only a short time.

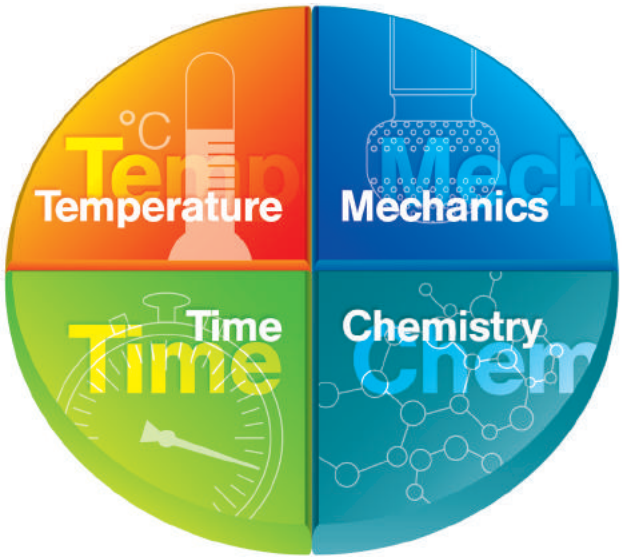

Figure 1: Sinner‘s circle with equal proportions of the temperature, time, chemistry and mechanical factors.

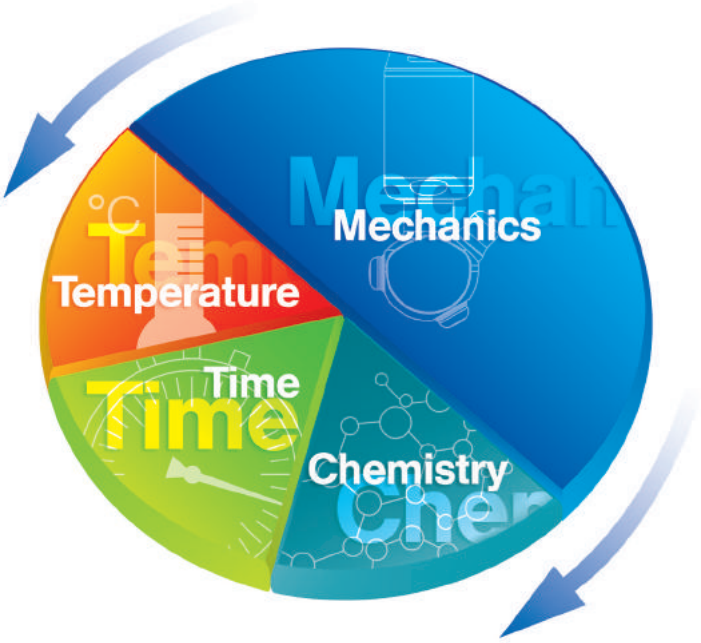

Figure 2: Lechler nozzles and rotating cleaning nozzles have high mechanical cleaning efficiency. This reduces the proportion of the other factors, as well as the resulting costs.

② Mechanical cleaning effects with Lechler rotating cleaning nozzles

Mechanical cleaning

Rotating cleaning nozzles deliver the greatest impact when cleaning the surface area of the tank. To achieve this, large droplets must strike at high speed. This enables thick soil to be removed that cannot dissolve in the cleaning fluid. Important influencing factors are the distance between the nozzle and wall, and the operating pressure.

If either are too great the fluid will break down into smaller droplets (see Figs. 3 and 4) and the impact will be reduced.

Besides the impact, the fluid running down the tank wall also has a significant cleaning effect. If the formed film is thick enough, the resulting shear stresses can remove light to moderate soil. In that case, unsprayed patches are less of an issue than is the case during impact cleaning (see Fig. 5).

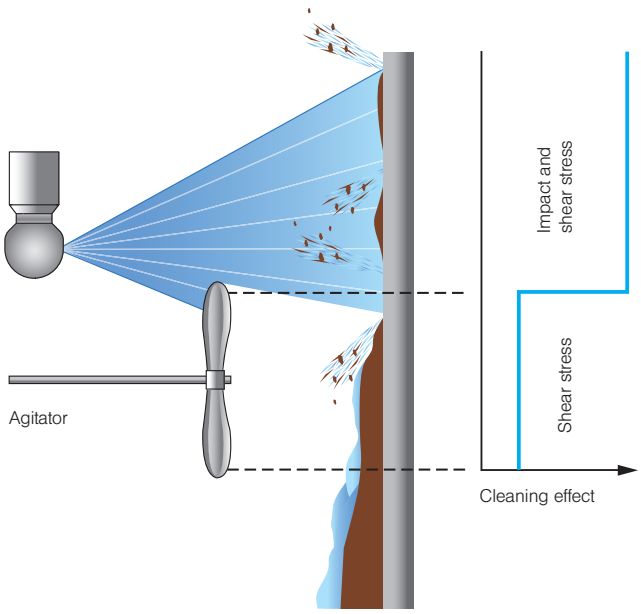

Figure 5: Cleaning mechanisms, impact and shear stress

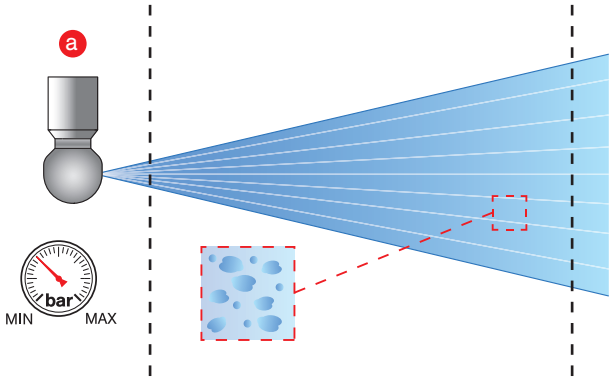

Figure 3: Rotating cleaning nozzles with recommended operating pressure

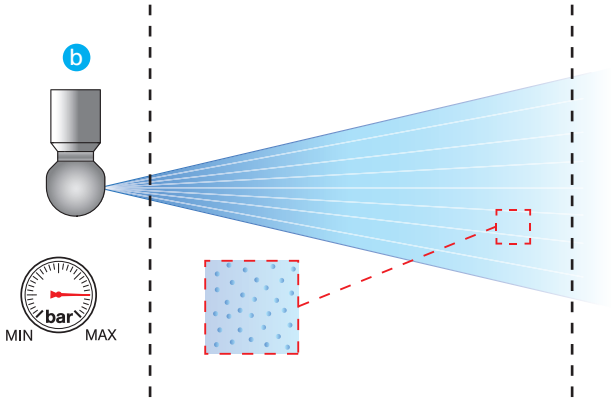

Figure 4: Rotating cleaning nozzles with operating pressure too high

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Impact

The force of impact when using of a liquid jet on a surface plays an important role in cleaning technology. The ratio of the force (F) to the surface (A) is referred to as the Impact (I).

$$I = \frac{\text{Impact force}}{\text{Impact surface}} = \frac{F}{A}\left[\frac{N}{m^2}\right]$$

It can be controlled via the following parameters:

Impact surface and spray angle (a)

The impact surface is the area where the droplet strikes. The smaller the surface area, the greater the impact values. Nozzles with high impact are, for example, solid stream nozzles and flat fan nozzles with a narrow spray angle (see Fig. 6).

Flow rate (b)

Increasing the flow rate by using a larger nozzle increases the impact, assuming that the other parameters (spray angle, pressure and medium) remain the same (see Fig. 6).

Pressure

With rotating nozzles, the supply pressure normally influences the rotation speed. The higher the rotation speed, the greater the tendency of rotating nozzles to atomize the fluid into much smaller droplets.

This effect has a negative influence on impact. Lechler rotating cleaning nozzles should therefore be used at the recommended operating pressure range.

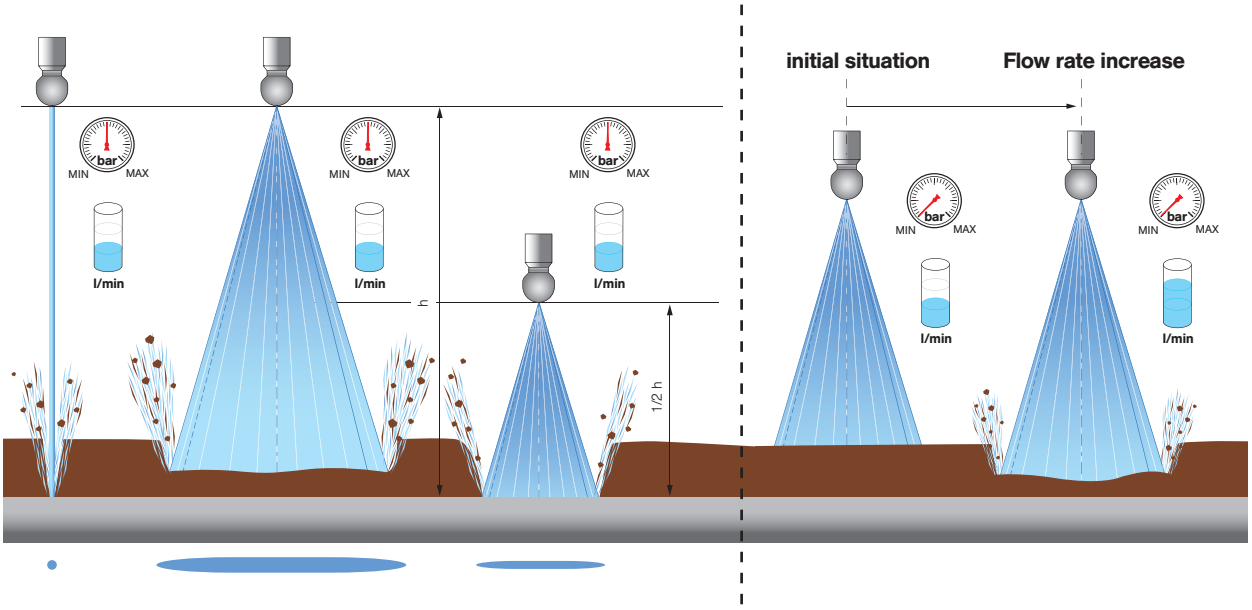


Figure 6:

a) Constant pressure and flow rate, variable spray shape and spray distance

b) Constant pressure, spray shape and spray distance, variable flow rate

Comparison of rotating cleaning nozzles and static spray balls

Due to their simple construction, static spray balls are economical and are likely to miss important areas. Whereas rotating cleaning nozzles spray the entire tank wall in a fan-like pattern, the jets from spray balls strike only in concentrated spots. The remaining surface is simply cleaned by the shear stresses of the fluid running off (see Fig. 7). The fluid consumption is therefore significantly greater in comparison with rotating cleaning nozzles.

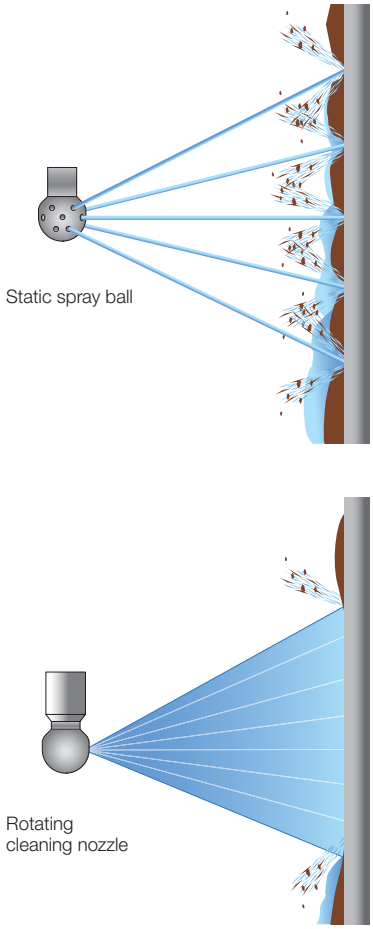


Figure 7: Comparison of rotating cleaning nozzles and static spray balls

Influence of chemistry and temperature

The chemical cleaning effect takes part in almost all tank cleaning applications when the soil is dissolved in the cleaning medium or the bonding between soil and tank surface is reduced. Higher temperatures can support the chemical cleaning effect.

Foam cleaning with nozzles

Foam cleaning is primarily based on the chemical cleaning effect. Since the foam sticks more firmly to the surface, it can be more effective than cleaning fluids that drip off quickly. The mechanical cleaning effect plays a correspondingly subordinate role. Here, the task of the nozzle is to distribute the foam evenly. Your end result for this application depends on the type of foam.

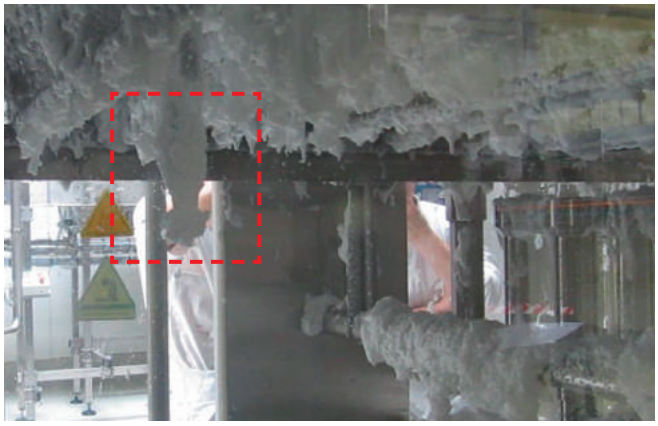


Figure 8: Foam cleaning with a Lechler PVDF MicroWhirly

CIP- and SIP-cleaning

Cleaning in Place (CIP) is one of the standard cleaning methods in the food and pharmaceutical industries. This is a process where the cleaning and disinfectant solutions circulate in the production systems during the cleaning process. The nozzles installed in the systems and do not need to be dismounted during the process.

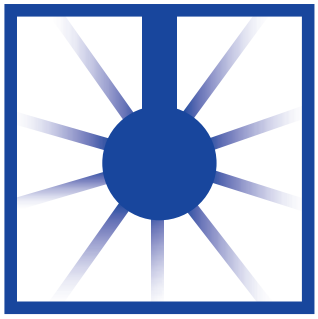
The correct combination of steps from Sinner‘s circle leads to a reliable and reproducible process. Almost all Lechler rotating cleaning nozzles and static spray nozzles are capable of CIP.

If sterilization is performed after CIP-cleaning with hot water or saturated steam, this is referred to as SIP-cleaning (Sterilization in Place).

WHAT YOU SHOULD KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLANNING

③ Lechler rotating cleaning nozzles designs

Operating principles

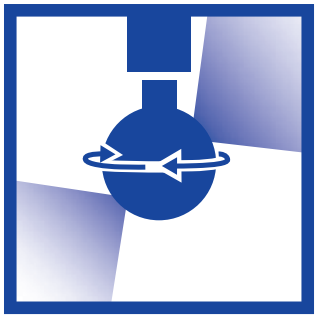


Static

Static spray balls do not rotate and therefore require considerably more fluid. They are used primarily for rinsing tanks. They are inexpensive to purchase and are very robust (trouble-free).

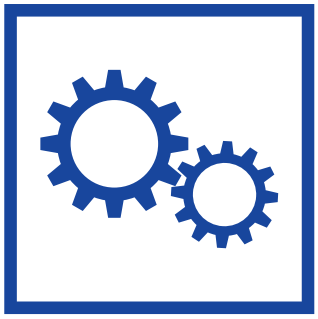
Free-spinning

The cleaning fluid drives the spray head by means of specially positioned nozzles. The rapidly repeated impacts remove the soil and rinses it from the tank surface. This results in optimum cleaning efficiency at low pressures in small to medium-sized tanks.



Controlled rotation

The rotating head is driven by the fluid. A turbine wheel with an internal gear is used to control the rotation. This ensures that the speed remains in the optimum range even at higher pressures. The droplets produced are larger and strike the tank wall at higher speed. These rotating cleaning nozzles thus achieve an even higher impact which is especially for large tanks important.



Gear-controlled

The cleaning fluid drives an internal gear by means of a turbine wheel so that the spray head rotates by two axes. The solid jet nozzles mounted on the spray head produce powerful jets. These jets sweep the entire tank surface in a pre-programmed, model-specific pattern during a spray cycle. This requires a certain minimum time. These models generate the highest impact and are therefore ideal for very large tanks and the toughest cleaning tasks.

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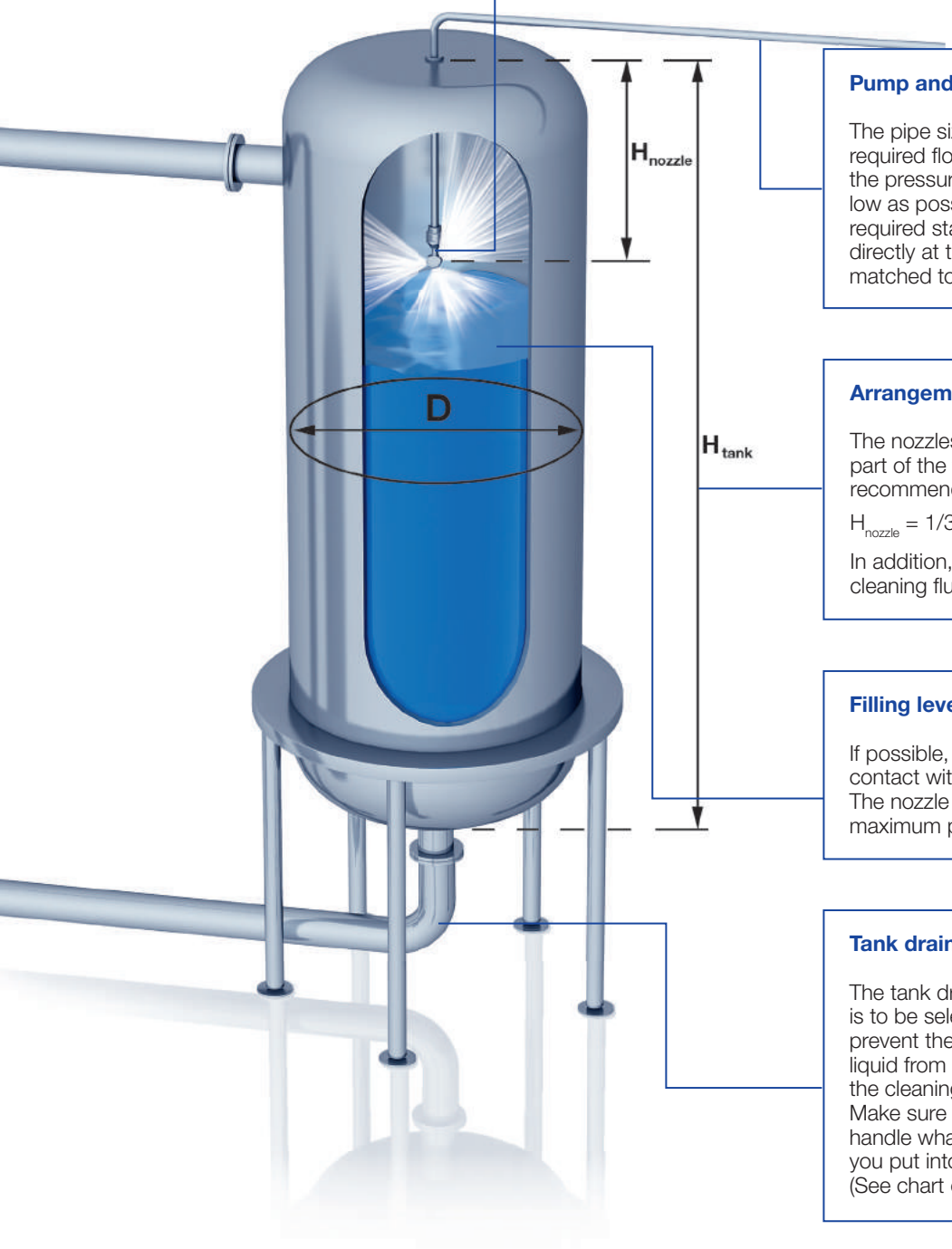


Nozzle selection

The choice of the right Lechler rotating cleaning nozzle or static spray ball is determined primarily by the type of soil to be cleaned and the tank diameter. You can find this information on the product pages. It must be guaranteed that the diameter of the tank to be cleaned is smaller than the specified maximum possible tank diameter of the nozzles.

Pump and pipes

The pipe size used depends mainly on the required flow rate and should be chosen so that the pressure losses in the pipe system are as low as possible. It must be guaranteed that the required static operating pressure is available directly at the nozzle. The pump power must be matched to this.

Arrangement

The nozzles must be positioned in the upper part of the tank where possible. The following recommendation applies:

$H_{nozzle} = 1/3 \cdot H_{tank}$

In addition, it must be ensured that sufficient cleaning fluid strikes the tank top.

Filling level

If possible, the nozzle should not come into contact with the product during production. The nozzle should be positioned above the maximum product level in the tank.

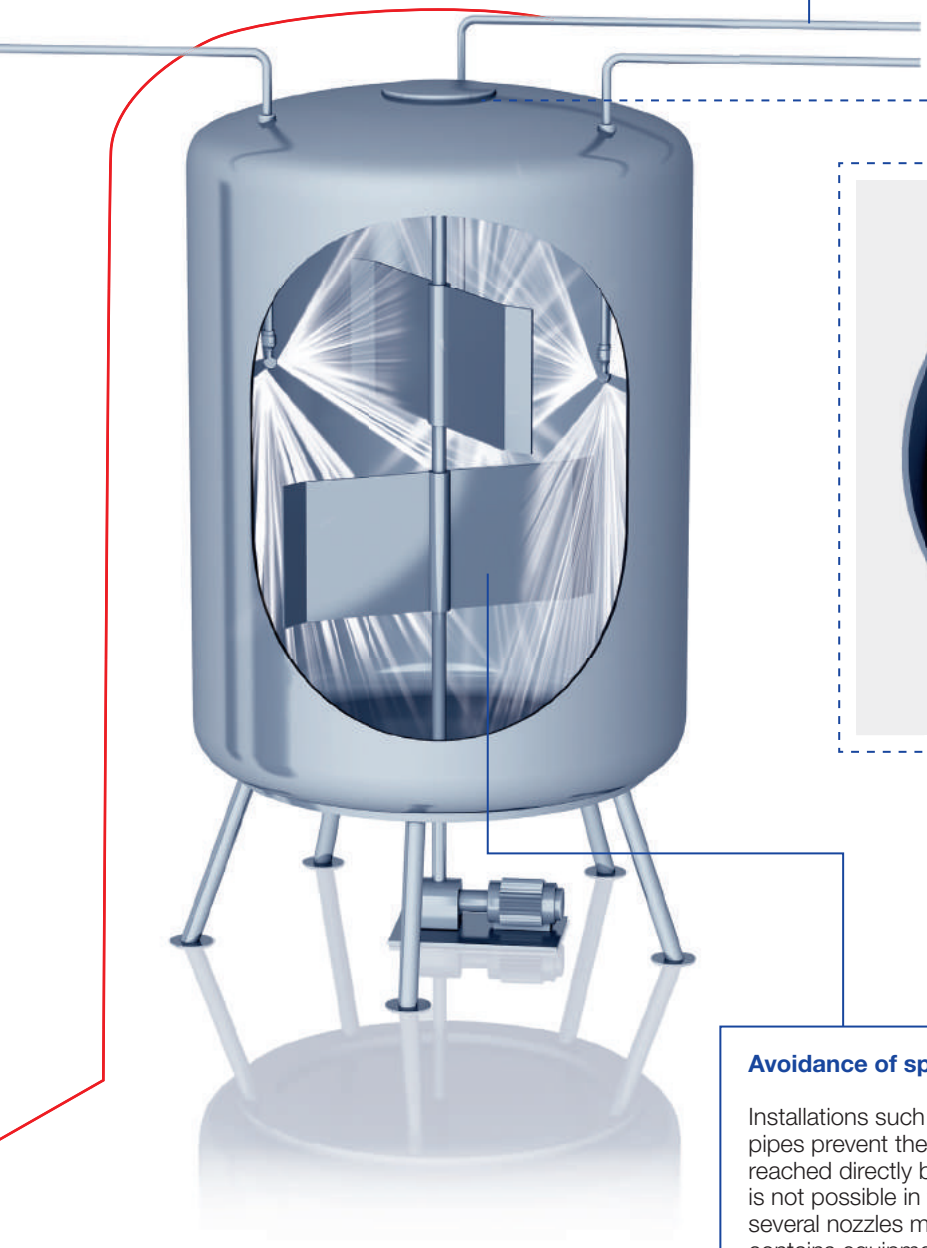
Tank drainage rate

The tank drainage rate is to be selected to prevent the level of liquid from rising during the cleaning process. Make sure the drain can handle whatever volume you put into the tank. (See chart on the right)

1"	23 l/min
1 1/2"	50 l/min
2"	87 l/min
2 1/2"	132 l/min
3"	190 l/min
4"	330 l/min

Number of nozzles

When cleaning large tanks or complex installations, you will need to install several nozzles. The nozzles must be positioned for the spray jets to overlap. These nozzles effectively clean the tank surface area.



Avoidance of spray shadows

Installations such as agitators, baffle plates or pipes prevent the areas behind them from being reached directly by the spray jet. Impact cleaning is not possible in these locations. For this reason, several nozzles must be installed if the tank contains equipment such as agitators or pipes. The number of nozzles should be chosen so that the spray shadows of the individual nozzles are eliminated. In addition, static spray nozzles can also be used for targeted removal of deposits left as a result of spray shadows or in areas that are difficult to clean.