

Re: Steel mesh on Booster

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.space.shuttle/2006-07/msg00232.html>

- *From:* John Doe <jdoe@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 04 Jul 2006 03:24:57 -0400
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Brian Gaff wrote:

I think the funniest skit on this idea I read was a whole spoof argument from someone saying that the tank should be covered in a giant condom.

Don't laugh. If the shuttle were russian, they would have long ago struck a deal with trojan for marketing rights of such a "condom, and the revenues alone might well pay for the extra weight and manufacture of the rubber coating.

Basically, what you need is some thin layer that can expand/contract. So if there are cracks in the underlying foam, the rubber would continue to cover and air flow during flight wouldn't go into the crack and thus not be able to lift pieces of foam off.

What NASA really needs is perhaps better rules on weather. Don't tank the bloody thing unless you have a very good idea that you can go on the day. And perhaps move the filling of the ET closer to launch to reduce weather uncertainties. Remove the fill/empty/fill cycles, and the foam is probably going to be in much better condition.

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