How to Choose the Right Pneumatic Timer

A strong selection process starts with circuit behavior. Define what the timer must do in the pneumatic circuit first, then match the timer family to the required delay, output, start signal, reset behavior, mounting, pressure range, and operating environment.

Decision sequence

1 Define the required delay

Start with the shortest and longest delay the circuit needs. Avoid choosing the broadest range by default.

2 Identify the delay function

Determine whether the circuit needs on-delay or off-delay behavior before selecting the timer family.

3 Define the output role

Decide whether the timer must provide a pilot signal, 3-way output, multi-purpose 3-way output, or 4-way valve function.

4 Confirm the start signal

Identify whether timing starts from direct line pressure, a separate pilot signal, diaphragm control pressure, or another signal.

5 Check reset requirements

Review machine cycle speed and confirm the timer can reset fully before the next signal arrives.

6 Choose the mounting style

Decide whether the timer needs panel visibility, rear installation, subplate mounting, surface mounting, vertical calibration, or horizontal calibration.

7 Review pressure and air conditions

Confirm operating pressure, control pressure, air cleanliness, moisture control, and line stability.

8 Confirm operator visibility needs

Choose a front-panel timer when the operator or technician needs to see set time or remaining cycle time.

9 Review safety and environment

Check electrical sensitivity, hazardous-location concerns, temperature limits, and approval requirements beyond the timer itself.

Selection is a circuit decision. Timer range confirms fit only after output behavior, reset, pressure, mounting, and environment are known.

Selection rule	Timing range alone does not select the correct timer. Match the pneumatic timer to circuit behavior: delay function, output role, start signal, reset timing, mounting, pressure, air quality, visibility, and environment.

Need help matching a timer to the circuit?

Contact EKCI for application support