

safety matters

Construction

Toolbox Talks

From your safety partners at **Crendon Insurance Brokers Ltd**

Stay Safe When Spray Painting

Spray painting is an efficient and effective way to cover large areas or irregular surfaces with even coats of primer, paint, sealers and other coatings. When you are using spray paint, it is important to recognise and guard against potential hazards.

Why it is Dangerous

Many paints, coatings, catalysts, sealers, hardeners and solvents contain hazardous chemicals to which you could be exposed during mixing, spraying, grinding and sanding tasks. Over-exposure can cause nausea, rash, asthma, dermatitis or even lung cancer. In addition, some coatings contain flammable substances, which are released into the air when you use high-pressure equipment. As they build up, these vapours can create an explosion hazard. To protect yourself from these and other health hazards, study the

following guidelines to safe spray-painting practices.

Ways to Protect Yourself

Before beginning a new task, consult the Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for each product that you use. You will find information specific to that chemical, including its hazards, the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), proper handling, transport, storage and disposal.

General Recommendations

- Use a spray booth to avoid breathing in spray paint vapours and debris. Regularly maintained and cleaned spray booths also provide maximum protection against explosion hazards.
- Wear hearing protection when working with air powered tools. Extended exposure to loud noises can result in irreversible damage to your hearing.

To protect yourself from various health hazards, study these guidelines for safe spray-painting techniques.



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- To protect your eyes, wear safety glasses and a dust mask or respirator to protect against dust particles that form when using grinding and sanding equipment.
- Wear a combination-type air filter and organic vapour respirator with breathing air lines to protect yourself from hazardous fumes.
- Wear lightweight, disposable coveralls or launder reusable coveralls separately from street clothes.
- Never eat, drink, smoke or apply cosmetics while working with spray paint. Store food and other belongings in a separate area.
- Store paints and their solvents carefully in ventilated, non-smoking areas to prevent the possibility of ignition and explosion.
- Since you may have to hold full paint pots while spraying, you must keep ergonomics in mind while on the job. Use balanced

spray guns that fit in your hand or use a hoist and dolly to move materials instead of holding them. Take frequent, short breaks throughout the working day to stretch to avoid unnecessary strains and sprains.

Keep Safety in Mind

Keeping safety in mind when working in and around spray painting operations will help you to avoid dangerous hazards and keep you injury-free on the job. If you have any doubt about your safety, regarding spray painting or any other issue, talk to your supervisor.

