



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR PAINTING

Painting involves handling volatile liquids that expose painters to significant dermal and inhalation hazards. Painters can protect themselves from these exposures by wearing gloves, paint suits, and properly maintained air-purifying, or air supplied respirators. Following are safety guidelines to use when working with paints in all forms of operations:

- **Ensure** all employees are aware of the health risks involved and review applicable MSDS prior to using any paint material and selecting personal protective equipment. Ensure painters consistently wear and maintain the required protective equipment.
- **Proper ventilation** and ventilation systems must be in place prior to painting.
- **Make sure** the ventilation system is specifically designed to remove organic vapors from the room to be painted, and to prevent the vapors from entering the workers breathing zones. A one-time exposure to diisocyanates can cause adverse health effects.
- **The paint will begin to evaporate** and fill the air as soon as the paint container is opened. Ensure all protective equipment is worn prior to opening the container. Close all containers of paint immediately after use. Paint mixing rooms contain many sources of organic vapors which include gun cleaners, paint drums, and solvents; make sure all containers are immediately closed after use.

Respirators

- **The employer must** provide and implement a written respiratory protection program with worksite specific procedures.
- **The program** must be updated as necessary to reflect changes in the workplace conditions.
- **The employer is required** to have medical tests, evaluations, and fit testing of employees who use respirators at the jobsite.
- **The employer** shall provide training of employees in the respiratory hazards to which painters are potentially exposed during routine and emergency situations.
- **Select only NIOSH** approved respirators.
- **The employer must provide and implement** schedules for the cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding, and maintaining of respirators. Schedules are required under **OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard**.
- **Air-purifying respirators must have** change-out cycles which indicate the duration of time that the respirator cartridges can be safely used before the cartridges become saturated and no longer protect the painter.
- **The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)** recommends that painters use supplied-air respirators during all paint spraying operations that involve hazardous paints. Supplied-air systems provide far superior respiratory protection to painters than air-purifying respirators.
- **Make sure** the half face piece or full-face piece respirator has been properly fit-tested to achieve the proper face-to-face piece seal.

- **Inspect** all components of the supplied air respirator system, which include headgear, breathing tube, air control valve, and compressed air supply before using.

Eye Protection: Use form fitting safety goggles or a full face shield.

Paint Suits: Apron, footwear, head sock, zippered front coverall, and coverall with elastic wrists, ankles, and hood.

Painters must protect themselves from dermal exposure by covering as much of the body as possible.

Check the type of paint and application methods so the proper paint suit is worn.

Hand Protection: Gloves must cover all exposed skin and must not allow any hazardous liquids or vapors to penetrate through to the skin. Do not use solvents to remove paint that has been spilled on any part of the body. Use nonhazardous cleaning agents.

Conclusion

Properly ventilated work areas, job specific respirators, gloves, and paint suits, ensure a safe work environment for the painter. Always remember to utilize these safety guidelines and review all applicable MSDS when performing painting operations.

TOOLBOX TALKS
PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) FOR PAINTING

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Comments: _____

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