

## INTRODUCTION

Spray painting is a fast and easy way to paint large surfaces. However, paint fumes can cause organ damage, are harmful to the skin and the eyes, and are extremely flammable and combustible. Therefore, remember to follow safety procedures when working with spray paint.

## SPRAY PAINTING TOOLS

Different spray painting tools require different precautions. For example:

- **Aerosol Cans:** For a small spray painting job, you can just use the paint straight from the can.  
Remember:
  - *Do not puncture, incinerate, or burn the can.*
  - *Always follow the instructions on the can.*
- **Airless Spray Guns:** Airless spray guns have a faster application and can use thicker paints than aerosol cans. When using airless spray guns:
  - *Be sure the equipment is in good working condition.*
  - *Never point the gun at yourself or another person.*
  - *The pressure could cause injection of the paint into a person's body which can lead to the need for amputation.*
  - *Keep away from sparks and other ignition points.*
- **Electrostatic Spray Guns:** These have electrically charged nozzles that use static electricity to make the paint stick to the workpiece. Safety precautions include:
  - *Making sure everyone who is not operating the gun is barred from the area so they will avoid getting electrocuted.*
  - *Grounding the equipment to make sure the operator does not get electrocuted.*



## SPRAY BOOTHS

Spray booths are structures that separate the spray area from the rest of the workplace, and are a good way to protect the health of the painter and reduce fire and explosion hazards. However, you still need to be able to take certain precautions:

- Separate the spray booths by at least 3 feet from storage and flammable and combustible material.
- Be sure all parts of the spray booth are completely cleaned before you use it for different coatings.
- Don't use the spray booth for drying things.



## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Always consult the MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) or the instructions for the paint you are about to use to know what type of PPE you need to use. You may have to use:

- Respirator: If you are not in a well-ventilated area while you are spray painting, you need to wear a respirator to keep from breathing in the fumes.
  - *Especially consider a respirator if you are downstream of the fumes.*
- Coveralls and gloves: Coveralls protect your clothes and skin from exposure to the paint, and protects the paint job from lint from your clothes and the oil from your hands.
- Ear Protection: If you are using an airless spray gun, an electrostatic spray gun, or a sander in between painting, you may want to protect your ears from the noise and wear ear protection.



## PRECAUTIONS

- Ground metal parts to prevent sparking .
- Inspect and constantly maintain all your equipment, especially the spray guns.
- Do not smoke in the spray area.
- Do not spray outside the spray area.
- Do not use portable lamps within the spray area; fixed lamps should be enclosed if within 20 feet of the spray area.
- Never spray the paint towards each other.

## CLEANUP AND STORAGE

- Put rags and materials in self-closing bins and empty the bin regularly.
- Do not store the paint near heat nor other hazardous materials.
- Do not use solvents to clean yourself; they can be harmful to your health. Do not use highly flammable solvents for cleaning the area.

## CONCLUSION

To avoid illness, injury, and accidents, be sure to treat spray painting and procedures with respect. Remember especially to never spray yourself or others, keep electricity away from the spray areas, and always follow the directions when using paint or its applicators.



**Builders' Exchange**  
OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

# Safety Meeting Report

Employer \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Location \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Supervisor \_\_\_\_\_

Safety Meeting Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

Accidents Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

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Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Employee's Attending

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