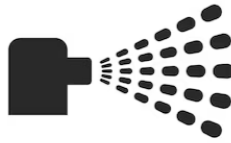


SAFETY MOMENT

November 2024 – Paint Overspray



What is Paint Overspray?

Paint Overspray is the build-up of airborne paint particles as a result of painting objects. These airborne paint particles can give rise to many different hazards depending on the chemical composition of the paint being used. According to Work Health and Safety (Spray Painting and Powder Coating) Code of Practice 2015, a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must ensure that workers are not exposed to any airborne substance at concentrations greater than the exposure standard for that substance.

Property Damage – apart from health concerns, overspray can settle on property and equipment if it is not appropriately minimised, possibly leading to damage.

What are the risks?

Overspray can impact workers in a variety of ways and can also impact both the company's operations and neighbouring companies' operations.

Some of the risks of overspray can include:

- Health risks – Prolonged exposure to overspray on the skin, eyes or lungs can cause irritation, headaches, lung damage and more serious conditions over time
- Environmental risks – Many commonly used paints and coatings contain volatile organic compounds and heavy metals which can contaminate water and soil and contribute to air pollution.
- Property Damage – Overspray can settle on both company and neighbouring company property, which can cause damages and be both expensive and time intensive to remove

Managing the risk

There are a range of techniques you can use to eliminate or minimise overspray while spray painting. The basic process is as follows:

- Step 1: Identify hazards
- Step 2: Assess the risk
- Step 3: Control risks
- Step 4: Review risk controls

