

**Solvents**

All solvents evaporate and form vapour in the air when containers are left open. Their vapours can be breathed in and lead to health problems. Many solvents are also highly flammable. They will readily create an atmosphere in which a fire can start, (not all solvents are flammable). Knowledge of what you are dealing with is vital to the proper methods of safe handling these and other chemicals.

**General Safety Precautions**

- Don't mix paints with other substances without approval
- Prevent spills and leaks
- Reduce vapour concentration by ventilation extraction systems
- Exclude sources of ignition such as naked lights, unsuitable electrical equipment, static electricity hazards, hot surfaces and mechanical friction

**WHAT ABOUT FIRST AID? **

**Inhalation:** Get to fresh air immediately. Oxygen or artificial respiration may be needed (see below instructions if victim is unconscious).

**Swallowing:** If conscious, give plenty of water to drink, do not cause vomiting.

**If unconscious:** do not give anything by mouth remove false teeth and clear mouth of solvent etc, ensure airway is open and use CPR as required. Place in recovery position and seek medical attention urgently.

**Skin Contact:** Wash with soap and water after removing any contaminated clothing.

**Eye Contact:** Flush eyes with warm water for at least fifteen minutes and seek medical attention.



**24 HOUR EMERGENCY CONTACTS**

Chemwatch:

**Phone 0800 24362255**

NZ Poison:

**Phone 0800 764 766**

**Paint Storage**

The most important component of a storage area for paint products is a cabinet designed specifically for storing flammables. The cabinet must have the appropriate signage. In addition, follow these guidelines for your storage area:

- Set it up in an easily accessible location that is cool, dry, and well-ventilated.
- Install a class-B (CO<sup>2</sup> or dry powder) fire extinguisher and, if metallic powders are present, a class-D fire extinguisher. (Specialised powders.)
- Stock the area with appropriate clean-up equipment.

**Disposal:** Please take care and consideration when deciding what to do with any leftover paint. Dispose in accordance with your local council advice on paint disposal. Or consider the following:

- Reduce waste, buy only what you need
- Use all the paint up
- Stored properly, paint will last for years
- Paint, especially two pot, can be mixed and left to cure, (lid off). Once hardened it can be disposed of in the usual way
- NEVER pour paint down drains



**TECHNICAL HELPLINE**

We have a great Technical team available who will happily discuss all your painting requirements with practical advice. Our Factory Shop staff are dedicated to making sure you receive top service and information.

**0800 258 390**

[www.thealtexpaintshop.co.nz](http://www.thealtexpaintshop.co.nz)



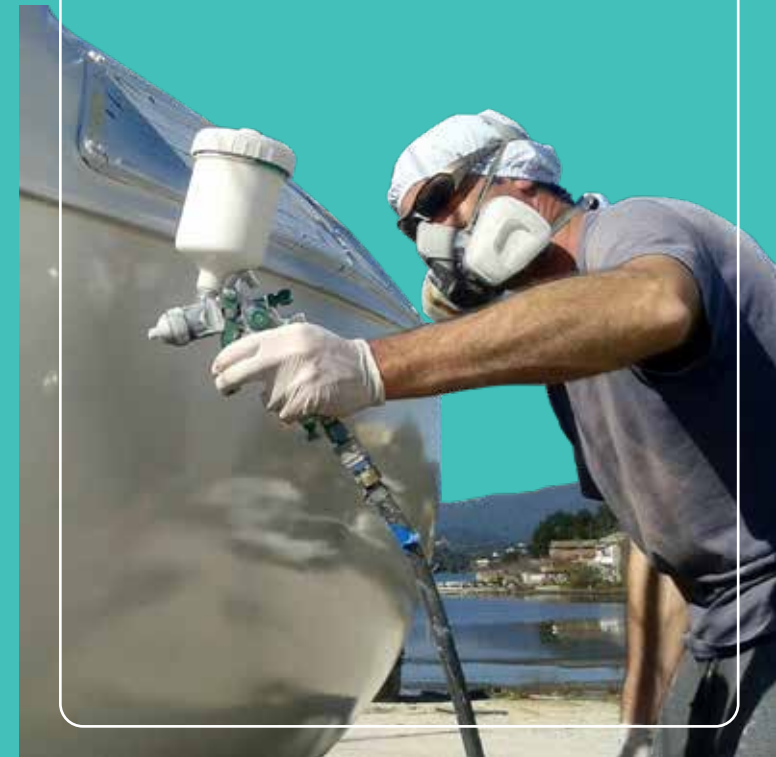
**THE ALTEX PAINT SHOP**

**SAFETY PAINTING TIPS**



**MAKE SAFETY EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY**

- Potential Hazards
- Safety Precautions
- Safety First | PPE
- Solvents
- Paint Storage | Disposal



# POTENTIAL HAZARDS

THERE ARE MANY INFORMATIVE AND COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION SOURCES ON PAINTING SAFELY WHICH WE WOULD ENCOURAGE YOU TO READ. HERE, WE HAVE ENDEAVOURED TO PROVIDE A BRIEF BUT INFORMATIVE REMINDER WITH HELPFUL TIPS, ON YOUR HEALTH AND SAFETY BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER PAINTING. THIS LEAFLET DOES NOT REPLACE A PRODUCT SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS)

The likelihood of a reaction and the extent and type of health effect depends on many factors, here are just a few to consider:

- Amount of atomised paint in the air
- Length of time a person is exposed
- Age
- Pre-existing medical conditions
- Susceptibility

Spray application presents a greater hazard to the applicator as they are not only exposed to the highly volatile solvents in the paint, but the paint mist itself.

Be aware of these potential hazards:

- All paint mist contain resins, pigments, solvents & additives. The mist should not be inhaled, contact skin or get into eyes.
- Working in a confined space, especially if spray-painting.
- Inadequate or poorly maintained PPE equipment. Always check before use.
- Fire - avoid using paint in an unventilated area; never expose it to an ignition source such as a spark, lit cigarette, or static electricity.
- Explosion, especially if a closed/semi closed container is exposed to high heat.
- Reactivity from mixing with or exposure to, other substances, including water.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS



Each product has specific safety precautions listed on the label and the Safety Data Sheet (SDS). The following are some basic safety steps to keep in mind when using any paint.

- ✓ Always read and follow all the instructions and safety precautions on the label or SDS.
- ✓ DO NOT assume you already know how to use the product.
- ✓ The label or data sheet will tell you what actions to take to reduce hazards and the first aid measures to use if there is a problem.
- ✓ There must be plenty of fresh air where you paint, open all doors and windows to the outside (not to hallways).
- ✓ Continue to provide fresh air after painting.
- ✓ NEVER use petrol for cleaning paint equipment, brushes etc.
- ✓ Keep paint away from all ignition sources.
- ✓ Make sure any leftover paint is stored with its lid firmly on to prevent spillage and evaporation.
- ✓ Flammable paint and paint thinners, must be stored in a Flammable Liquids Storage Cabinet.
- ✓ At home, consider a suitably solid, locked cabinet, preferably stored away from the home (garage or shed) and away from children.



Environmental Hazard



Short Term Illness



Flammable



Long Term Illness

## SAFETY FIRST

### Personal Protective Equipment PPE

- Clothing that fully covers the skin
- Gloves that resist specific paint ingredients
- Eye/face protection is recommended
- Safety glasses, goggles, hoods or face shields
- Properly fitted respirators when required
- Barrier creams for exposed skin
- Consider the following questions carefully:
- Are the gloves you wear resistant to the chemicals being used? Gloves can swell and distort allowing solvents to penetrate skin.
- Are the overalls impervious to the chemicals being used?
- Do you need regular safety boots or do you need antistatic boots?
- Does the process require earth straps?
- Is the work area well ventilated?
- Where are the fumes being extracted to?
- Do you have the correct type of respirator for the job?
- Does the respirator fit?
- Are the cartridges correct for the paint used and have been replaced often enough?
- Do you have air-fed respirators when working inside confined spaces, in areas where ventilation is poor or when spraying Polyurethanes? NB: those working in tanks or confined spaces are required to have a "partner" on the outside.
- Where is the air supply coming from, is it exterior fresh air?
- If using compressed air, is the air being contaminated by oil from the compressor? Is the intake near a high traffic area where air is laden with carbon monoxide?
- Are you removing your gloves and washing your hands before toilet breaks, eating, or smoking?



BE AWARE OF OTHER HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH PAINTING, SUCH AS SANDING DUST, EQUIPMENT SUCH AS LADDERS ETC. ALWAYS MAKE SURE YOUR PAINTING AREA IS FREE OF CLUTTER AND TRIPPING HAZARDS.

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