

DO YOU NEED AN ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORISATION?

An Environmental Authorisation is needed for medium to large scale operations. Medium scale operations are workshops that have a workload of 5-14 vehicles per month and operate on a daily basis with a fixed schedule and large scale operations are workshops that have workload of fifteen (15) vehicles or more per month.

If you currently own or thinking about setting up such operation then you need to apply to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for an Environmental Authorisation.

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Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) must always be worn during spray painting, which includes: gloves, goggles, face mask, long sleeved shirts and long pants. Do not store protective equipment in the spray booth.

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) should be available to provide information to employees on the hazardous substances used in the workshop. It should include such information as how the substance can affect someone's health and the type of PPE that should be used while handling the substance.

Compressed gas cylinders should be stored and managed according to the supplier's recommendations. Air compressors should be operated according to manufacturer's instructions.

Electric motors that power the exhaust system must be outside the spray area and properly placed.

Fire extinguishers and spill kits should be available and functioning, First Aid Kit must be always available.

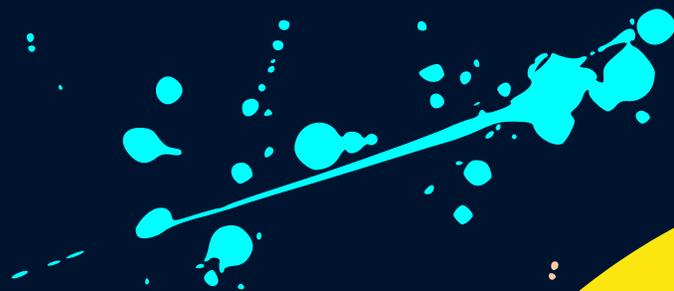
Employers must ensure the placing of proper signage around booths especially 'NO SMOKING' signs.

Persons working in booths should be trained regularly in proper environmental health.

Spray painting equipment can also be a source of noise. Noise from spray painting operations must be within the limits established by the Guyana Nation Bureau of Standards (GNBS).



SPRAY PAINTING





THINGS TO KNOW

One of the main concerns of spray painting is air pollution which affects human health. This can cause cancer, respiratory tract irritation, headaches, etc.

Spray painting releases chemicals known as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) into the air and comprises of any compound of carbon. These include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, carbonic acids and ammonium carbonate.

Throughout the spray painting operation, liquid and solid wastes are created, including used solvents, waste paints and more. If not disposed properly, these can become a hazard to water quality, and could significantly increase the risk of fire.



WHAT TO CONSIDER WHEN SETTING UP A SPRAY PAINTING OPERATION

LOCATION

Spray painting shops should be located in commercial or industrial areas **NOT RESIDENTIAL AREAS** and should be at least 50 meters (164 ft) from the nearest residence.



SETTING UP

Spray booths or rooms should be constructed with non-flammable materials. Both walls must be smooth without edges to avoid the trapping of residue and should be fully ventilated to keep vapours and paint away from other work area.



EXHAUST

Vents should be put in place to remove vapours. Which should be 2 meters above the highest roof in the surrounding area and should include an effective filter system to reduce emissions.



ENVIRONMENTAL GUIDELINES FOR SPRAY PAINTING

Hold the spray gun at the right angle to the surface being sprayed. The spray gun should be used according to the equipment specifications and will help to reduce VOC emissions. Also choose spray equipment that will cause more paint to be applied on the surface when spraying e.g. High Volume Low Pressure Paint Gun (HVLP)

Use water-based cleaners to remove sand, sludge, fingerprints and other contaminants. Use water-based cleaners that contains chemicals to remove grease, road tar, silicone and drive line oils.

Rags used to soak up solvents should be kept in a closed container labeled 'HAZARDOUS WASTE'.

Waste that is produced from a spray painting operation should be disposed in accordance with the recommended standards.

A 'Spill Kit' must always be available and employees should know how to use it. To clean up a spill, absorbent material should be used. Install drain covers or drain valves to stop spills or leaks from entering drains or the sewerage system.

If spilled solvent isn't contaminated, use it for cleaning. Any material used to clean up a spill should be stored in a sealed drum before disposal.