



LOSS CONTROL NEWSLETTER

August 2020

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Painting and Spraying Safely

Before beginning any paint job, always read the label on the paint can and consult the safety data sheet (SDS). The label and SDS will tell a lot of what you need to know to use the product safely.

Follow these paint-handling precautions:

- Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing.
- Wear the required PPE, including goggles, gloves and, if necessary, a respirator.
- Use protective skin cream when appropriate to prevent drying of skin.
- Ventilate the paint area.
- Use water-based paints whenever possible.
- Store paint away from incompatible materials.
- Contain and clean up any spills quickly and completely.
- Use grounded equipment and non-sparking tools.

- Keep paints away from ignition sources.
- Keep containers tightly closed and sealed when not in use.
- Dispose of combustible rags in designated closed containers that are emptied daily.

Do not make these paint-handling mistakes:

- Smoking in paint areas
- Painting from a container that either is missing a label or has one that is unreadable
- Mixing paints with other substances without prior approval
- Using solvents or thinners to remove paint from your skin

Never place solvent- and oil-based paints in the regular trash; they must be managed as a hazardous waste. Water-based paints may be disposed of with ordinary trash in solidified form.



Four Tips for Everyday Safety on the Job

Fire drills, active shooter drills and virus protection measures guard against serious potential risk. But there are also simple measures you can take to ensure a safer workplace every day:

1. Do not take shortcuts.

Safety rules and procedures were created by experienced experts to keep you and your coworkers safe – even if they do not make obvious sense to you. Cutting corners may save time, but it also can create unnecessary risks. A few seconds or minutes are not worth illness or injury.

2. Take your breaks.

When you are busy or focused – or you are trying to impress the higher-ups – you might be tempted to skip your breaks. But people who are tired are more likely to hurt themselves. Schedule your most trying tasks for the morning or another time when your level of concentration is highest, and use your breaks to decompress and refresh.

3. Use proper lifting technique.

Whether your job requires regular heavy lifting or you occasionally find yourself needing to move a box of paper or other bulky item, you need to do it right. In other words, lift with your legs, not your back. Take advantage of the available equipment and mechanical aids, even if you think you are strong enough to do it on your own, especially for objects that weigh more than 50 pounds.

4. Keep emergency exits and equipment accessible.

Knowing your emergency routes and the location of items like fire extinguishers won't help if they are not easily accessible. Do not allow these critical areas to become blocked or cluttered. Avoid piling things in the areas yourself, and alert your manager if you notice the areas getting crowded.

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding workplace safety, please contact your independent insurance agent or the Auto-Owners Loss Control HelpLine at 855.586.5388, or send an email to LossControlSupport@aoins.com.

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