



ALASKA BOATER TIP SHEET

Painting

Use brushers and rollers instead of sprayers whenever possible. Paint spraying can be wasteful and can send more paint into the environment than applying by hand.

If spraying, use paint guns that are high volume low pressure (HVLP) or high efficiency low pressure (HELP). HVLP paint guns can reduce overspray by 25% – 50%, reducing both your costs and the amount of paint introduced into the environment.

Don't paint on windy days, and make sure to use tarps and tents to provide protection.

Mix paints away from the water and avoid dripping into the water. Remember that paints are toxic to marine life and always practice good housekeeping when painting. Only mix as much paint as you need for the job at hand.

When painting on the water, keep mixed open paint in small containers (less than one gallon) that can be tightly covered. Small containers mean small spills. Keeping containers tightly covered will prevent evaporation, which can reduce air pollution and saves product and money.

Do not intentionally air-dry leftover oil-based paints. Evaporation of waste solvent or oil-based paint is illegal and reduces air quality for everyone.

Collect all paint chips and dispose of properly. If you aren't sure if the paint chips are considered hazardous or not, check the MSDS sheets for the products you're working with. Oil-based paint and paints containing heavy metals are considered hazardous materials and should be disposed of as such.

If you don't know where to take your wastes – ask your harbormaster! Especially at an Alaska Clean Harbors certified facility, your harbormaster

and harbor staff should be a resource for you, the customer. If you don't know where to take something for disposal, ask at the harbor office.

Educate all workers on the hazardous nature of solvents. Solvents can be costly for purchasing and disposal. Make sure any workers using solvents are aware of their hazardous nature. Most paint strippers, cleaner and solvents associated with painting are identified as hazardous waste by characteristic (primarily ignitability) or because they are an "F" listed hazardous waste with components that include acetone, toluene, xylene, Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK) and ethylbenzene.

Extend the life of your solvents:

- Use a two-stage cleaning process. When the first bath doesn't clean, replace it with the second bath and refill the second bath with clean solvent. Properly dispose of spent solvent.
- Reuse solvents. Allow the solids to settle, then pour off and reuse the clean solvent. Use this reused solvent to do initial cleaning and save your new solvent for a final cleaning.

Consider alternatives to chemical paint stripping. Based on the surface you are stripping, the type of paint being removed and the volume and type of waste produced, consider alternatives such as sandblasting, scraping and/or abrasive blasting.

When using chemical paint strippers, consider using water- or soy-based products which are less hazardous.

Clean paint guns in an enclosed gun cleaner and capture all solvents. Spent paint gun solvent must be treated as hazardous waste and should never be discharged into drains or onto the ground.