

Glove up hard talk

The Glove up team has provided some food for thought in the bid to keep everyone safe at work...

Potent as alcohol

Solvents still form the base of many paints, and it pays to remember that they can have the same effect on you as excessive consumption of alcohol. If you are overexposed to solvents on the job, you can be as dangerous on the road as a drunk driver, and you could be more prone to accidents if you are working on ladders or scaffolding. And if you combine overexposure with a cold beer at the end of a long day on the tools, the risk is even higher. If you are feeling the effects of solvent exposure, move to a well ventilated area away from the solvents. Seek medical attention if needed. Do not drive yourself if you are suffering from the effects of solvent exposure. And next time you tool up for the job, make sure you have personal protection equipment before you start.

Silica

Alkyd undercoat contains silica, as do most cement based products, floor and tile glues etc. This dust is carcinogenic, so when you are sanding these products remember to mask up and protect yourself, and wet sand wherever possible.

The choice is yours – but if you know the dangers, you can do something about them and protect yourself.



Identify your solvents to mask type

Take notice of colour coding of the cartridges.

Consider this: you might have a situation where you are using Toluene based paint, then the next day you could use an Acetone based paint and the same cartridge. The Toluene solvent that has been capsulated in the cartridge will be dissolved by the Acetone and blow the capsulated solvents straight through into your lungs making the cartridge useless.

That is why it is important you identify your solvent then match to the correct cartridge.

One cartridge one solvent. Don't cross over solvents, it doesn't work.

Dust in the workplace

Customwood MDF; According to American statistics, 1 in 10 who use this product develop nasal carcinomas. This product contains formaldehyde, which is carcinogenic. So remember to use a dust filter on your machinery and wear an appropriate mask. Make sure the builders clean up before you start work. Have you ever seen borer in Cedar timber? Maybe that is why, the dust from Cedar is carcinogenic. Next time you sand down timber window frames be sure to wear a mask - it is that simple.

Thanks to Tony and Annette Gibson of Glove up.