

	<b>MRAT 068</b>	<h2 style="text-align: center;">Solvent-based aerosol paints</h2>	<b>Applicable to:</b> acrylic paints rust proofing fluorescent paints	<b>See also:</b> 065 069 070
<b>Process(es) covered:</b>		<p>Many different paints are available in cans to be applied as aerosols. These finishes are very convenient for objects small enough to be placed in a large cardboard box (on its side) to contain the over-spray.</p> <p>Zinc-rich primers often contain toluene in the solvent mixture, others contain up to 35% of xylene. Possible other constituents include MEK, acetone, alcohols and less-hazardous components. The propellant is usually butane.</p>		

### Control Measures

- Wear eye protection and avoid contact with skin.
- Remove all naked flames and other sources of ignition before using aerosol finishes.
- Avoid using zinc-rich primer unless local exhaust ventilation is available, or it is practicable to work in the open air.
- Provide good areas with good ventilation where paints can be used on a small scale.

### Immediate Remedial Measures:

Paints are swallowed	DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. Keep casualty at rest. Call 111 and seek medical attention.
Vapour is inhaled	Remove casualty to fresh air. Keep warm and at rest. If breathing is irregular or has stopped, administer artificial resuscitation. Call 111 and seek medical attention.
Sprayed into eyes	Irrigate immediately with water for at least ten minutes, holding eyelids apart. If discomfort continues. Call 111 and seek medical attention.
On the skin	Remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin thoroughly with soap and water or use a proprietary skin cleanser. Do not use solvents.

<b>Storage</b>	Normally in a steel cupboard specifically designed for the storage of highly flammable materials. Away from sources of ignition. In accordance with the requirements of the <i>Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002</i> . Up to a total of 50 litres to be held in small containers in a fire-resisting 'highly-flammable liquids cupboard or bin'.
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<b>Disposal</b>	An authorised waste disposal contractor should be used. Waste materials must be treated as a fire hazard and disposed of in accordance with the <i>Hazardous Waste Regulations</i> .
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## Risk Assessment

### Hazards:

Harmful Irritant Highly flammable	<p>Toluene (methyl benzene) [LTEL (8 hrs) 191 mg m<sup>-3</sup>, STEL (15 mins) 384 mg m<sup>-3</sup>] is classified as Highly flammable liquid and vapour [H225]. May be fatal if swallowed and enters the airways [H304]. Causes skin irritation [H315]. May cause drowsiness or dizziness [H336]. Suspected of damaging the unborn child [H361d]. May cause damage to organs through prolonged or repeated exposure [H373]</p> <p>Xylene (dimethyl benzene) [LTEL (8 hrs) 220 mg m<sup>-3</sup>, STEL (15 mins) 441 mg m<sup>-3</sup>] is classified as Flammable liquid and vapour [H226]. Harmful in contact with skin [H312]. Causes skin irritation [H315]. Harmful if inhaled [H332].</p> <p>Acetone (propanone) [LTEL 1210 mg m<sup>-3</sup>, STEL (15 mins) 3620 mg m<sup>-3</sup>] is classified as Highly flammable liquid and vapour [H225]. Causes serious eye irritation [H319]. May cause drowsiness or dizziness [H336]. Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness and cracking [EUH066]</p> <p>Methyl ethyl ketone (MEK or butanone) is classified as Highly flammable liquid and vapour [H225]. Causes serious eye irritation [H319]. May cause drowsiness or dizziness [H336]. Repeated exposure may cause skin dryness and cracking [EUH066]</p> <p>All types use extremely flammable solvents and propellants.</p>
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### Risks:

Harmful	<p>The WEL values for toluene can easily be exceeded if sanding sealer is used extensively or if jars of thinner are used to hold brushes between use.</p> <p>The WEL values for Xylene could be exceeded if <i>Hammerite</i> paint is used extensively or if jars of thinner are used to hold brushes between use.</p>
Irritant	<p>Splashes to the eye will cause discomfort and possible damage. Prolonged contact with the skin may have a defatting effect that may lead to skin irritation and dermatitis.</p>
Highly flammable	<p>There is a serious risk of fire if any source of ignition is present close to where sanding sealer is being used or handled.</p>

### Further Information:

- Although these finishes dry quickly to give attractive surfaces (shiny or matt), their use is an expensive way to provide a range of colours or for coating a large area.
- Some polishes may contain toluene, this should be avoided by women who are, or may be pregnant, so is best avoided with female staff and pupils.