

SUMMER IS COMING

Technical Tips for CV & Industrial Applications during warmer weather.

In summer, paint tends to dry more quickly, so it's essential to slow down the drying process to maintain optimal application performance and flow. This helps prevent issues like a peely finish and dry overspray, especially when working on large areas.

Despite the challenges posed by warmer weather, you can achieve excellent results by following these six steps to ensure a high-quality finish every time.

1. Spray Temperature

To prevent paint from drying too quickly, where possible, try to work during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or later in the afternoon. If you're unable to paint in a controlled environment like a spray booth and must work outside, avoid direct sunlight. Instead, seek shaded areas to help ensure more even drying.

2. Spray Gun Settings

Use a lower air pressure setting to minimise overspray and promote smoother application, which helps prevent the paint from drying too quickly and improves atomisation in hot weather.

Consider using a wider fan pattern to cover larger areas quickly and evenly, reducing the risk of applying too much paint at once, which can lead to runs or sags.

Maintain a distance of around 20-30cm from the surface with your spray gun. This distance helps control the flow and minimises the risk of dry spray, ensuring a more consistent finish.

3. Choosing the best activator and thinner combination

Slower speeds of activators and reducers are typically used in the summer months. Depending on the temperature and humidity, select an appropriate combination of activator and thinner to extend drying time and promote better flow, preventing the paint from drying too quickly. Keep in mind that higher temperatures can affect the paint's viscosity, increasing the risk of sags and runs, so you may need to reduce the amount of thinner used.

4. Application Technique

Apply thinner coats instead of one thick layer to avoid runs and achieve even coverage, particularly when using slower speeds of activator and reducers. With the faster drying times in summer, be sure to check the surface before applying additional coats. Always follow the technical datasheet recommended drying and curing times to ensure the best results.

5. Pot Life

Higher temperatures can shorten the pot life of your paint mix. It's crucial to use the activated mix promptly during summer, as the material may thicken and become difficult to spray. If this happens, avoid adding thinner, instead discard the material and prepare a fresh mix. Additionally, always close activator cans tightly right after use to prevent humidity from affecting the hardening process. This will help maintain optimal performance and results.

6. Paint Storage

Always store paint cans in a cool, shaded area to preserve their effectiveness. Before use, make sure to stir the paint thoroughly to achieve an even consistency. This will help ensure optimal application and results.

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