

Prevent Cratering!

Technical Tips for CV & Industrial Applications during warmer weather.

When refinishing commercial vehicles, achieving a flawless finish can be a challenge!

One common paint defect is cratering, which occurs when airborne or surface contaminants disrupt the paint's flow, resulting in shallow craters or dimples in the finish.

To achieve a high-quality result, and minimise the risk of craters affecting the paint finish, we recommend the following preventive measures:

1. Always prepare surfaces using a high-quality silicone or wax and grease remover. Apply the silicone or wax and grease remover wet (do not let it dry on the surface), then wipe it off dry with clean lint-free wipes to ensure no contaminants remain on the surface.
2. Regularly check and replace air filters to prevent the build-up of dust and contaminants. The use of a three-stage filter and receiver dryer is also recommended, as it prevents such contaminants from entering the spray booth. Additionally, drain the air compressor frequently to avoid oil or water accumulation that could contaminate the wet paint application.
3. Whenever possible, work in a clean, well-ventilated area with minimal air movement. Ensure that external environmental contaminants do not enter the air intake to avoid contaminating the spray booth.
4. Proper spray gun cleaning is essential. A high quality multipurpose thinner is recommended, and products based on recycled solvents should be avoided.
5. Products containing silicone, such as aerosols, polishes, cleaners, and sealants, should be kept away from the work area.
6. Always wear lint free PPE suits to prevent fibres from contaminating the finish. Additionally, wear gloves to prevent skin oils and sweat from becoming surface contaminants.
7. Lastly, use anti silicone additives with caution. While they help with flow and reduce surface tension, overuse can lead to contamination of the spraying environment.

For crater affected areas, allow the surface to dry completely. Then clean the affected area with a suitable degreaser before beginning the repair. Sand the surface evenly, then reclean with the degreaser. Depending on the severity of the craters, a primer surfacer may be required before applying the topcoat.

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