

BASIC HOUSEKEEPING PRACTICES FOR PAINT SPRAY BOOTHS

Keeping your spray booth clean is an important process for the ultimate efficiency of running your spray booth. This can be achieved by reducing the number of resprays, repolishing, etc. that may result from dust and other contaminants entering the booth.

The following guidelines will also assist in the maintenance of a safe work place, subsequently reducing the loss of time and money due to injury and poor work practices.

Spray booths are designed to provide a clean, temperature controlled environment in which to paint. The filtrating system is one of the most important systems in the spray booth, yet is often overlooked during regular maintenance.

The following list of suggestions and hints will assist the filtration system in maintaining a clean painting environment not only saving you money on resprays and reworks but also energy efficiency.

- 1) Check the booth regularly to ensure that there are no leaks for dust and contaminants to get through. With the constant changes in differential pressure between the booth, the outside environment, and the changes in temperature between cycles, the panels may flex and bend slightly, causing the seals around the doors and joints to loosen and possibly leak. These leaks can be identified by jet marks of dust on the walls of the booth, or by light shining into the booth through these gaps. Once a leak has been detected, it is important that it is sealed immediately. If the jet marks are detected on the inside of the booth, this can indicate that the booth is operating under a negative pressure and that the ceiling filters are clogged and should be replaced.
Some booths run at a very slight negative pressure during the spray cycle such as the Junair 5 Series booth. So if you see jet marks on the inside of the booth this is not an indication that the ceiling filters are clogged.
- 2) It is vitally important to keep the doors closed to reduce the amount of airborne dust particles entering the booth. This practice is often overlooked. Only open the doors to move work into and out of the booth. Do not open the doors to cool the booth down more quickly, this will only introduce dust into the "clean" environment.
- 3) It is good practice to start the fans running, with the doors closed, at least half an hour prior to spraying the first job of the day. This will enable the filter system to remove any dust contaminants from the airstream that may have entered the booth since its last use.

- 4) Just as important in maintaining your booth is to not create clutter. This not only reduces the workspace but all items that are kept within the booth can collect and create dust. The best way to minimise this dust is to limit the number of items in the booth. It is a good idea to remove any shelves in the spray cabin.
- 5) The type of clothing worn whilst working in the spray booth is also very important. All clothing should be lint free and head and facial hair should always be covered. Specially designed coveralls should be worn during painting, and should not be worn for any other purposes. They should be donned just prior to entering the spray booth and should be replaced as soon as they become dirty or damaged.
- 6) When using an auxiliary air movement system, it is a good practice to ensure that all masking is taped down properly, this will prevent it fluttering during the flash off and bake cycles. This is especially important when using paper masking products as the paper fibres are more likely to create paint damaging particles than the plastic alternatives. Some plastic masking materials have static cling properties that also trap overspray.
- 7) It is also good practice to perform all preparation outside the booth, including masking. This will help to minimise the dust created inside the booth. It is especially important to never sand a job in or near the entrance to the booth, this will eliminate any future problems with dust and contaminants.
- 8) Good quality filters will effectively decrease the amount of over sprayed coating mist as well as other contaminants.

Good housekeeping is essential to keeping your booth operating at its best, saving you both time and money.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact Junair Spraybooths by email at sales@junair.com.au or by calling 1300 881 411.