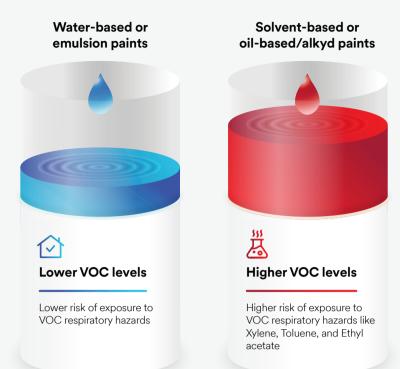


# Know your hazard: **Liquid Industrial Paints**

## What are liquid industrial paints?

Liquid industrial paints are of two types, water-based and solvent-based. They are distinguished on the basis of amount of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) content present in them.



### Sources of exposure to liquid industrial paints

Workers can be exposed to harmful effects of paints while:



**Brushing or** rolling

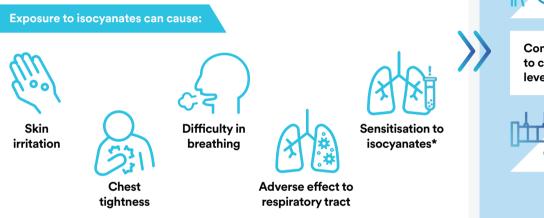


Application by spray

Using cleaning agents and reducing agents on paints

#### Harmful effects of using solvent-based or oil-based/alkyd paints

Exposure risk to solvent-based paints increases because of their composition that includes reducing agents and clean-up solvents. Certain solvent-based paints include isocyanates, a class of chemical compounds. Safe Work Australia and WorkSafe New Zealand specify for spraying isocyanate containing paints a Supplied Air Respiratory system is required.



#### How can one protect against it?

In order to reduce exposure and risks to workers, you can:



**Get Respiratory Protective Equipment** (RPE).

**Conduct risk assessment** to compare exposure levels with limits.





Implement engineering controls such as local exhaust ventilation (LEV).

# What RPE does 3M recommend for protection against

# liquid industrial paint?

3M offers respiratory protection equipment designed for different types of paint, whether water-based or solvent-based, and the specific airborne contaminants.



\*It is estimated that 5% - 20% of workers can become sensitised to isocyanates. Sensitisation is the body's allergy-like response to a substance that has been inhaled or touched by a susceptible individual.

\*\*This is only recommendation for minimum PPE required. Each work application must be evaluated by a competent person as required by local law and regulation for the hazard and risk before selection of right PPE. Workplace rules and regulations must take precedent, if more stringent.





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