

Safety Note #42

AIRLESS SPRAYER SAFETY



Data available from the Consumer Product Safety Commission indicate airless sprayer injuries typically involve injection of sprayed fluids into the hands or fingers, spraying of fluids into the eyes, and inhalation of fumes/vapors from sprayed substances. California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 8, Section 3559.1 addresses airless sprayers. CCR Title 8, Section 3203 (7) requires employees be trained on the equipment they use in the workplace.

Pre-Use Activities

- Thoroughly review and understand information provided in the airless sprayer operator's manual with particular attention given to descriptions of safety procedures.
- Before using, always inspect the airless sprayer for damage or disrepair and assure all hoses are intact and connected properly. Inspect the electrical cord and plug for defects.
- If an airless sprayer fails the pre-use inspection, notify your supervisor and remove the sprayer from service by attaching a red tag that states "DO NOT USE." Complete red tag with appropriate information.

Operating Precautions

- Always wear safety glasses/goggles and gloves and appropriate protective clothing when using an airless sprayer.
- Airless sprayer fluids can produce hazardous vapors. Therefore, airless sprayer operations should occur in well ventilated areas and depending on the material being sprayed, require use of an appropriate mask or respirator.
- Never use an airless sprayer without the tip guard in place.
- Always use the correct-sized sprayer tip for the substance being sprayed.
- Insert three-pronged airless sprayer plugs into receptacles with similar prong patterns.
- Maintain a distance from 10 to 12 inches between the spray tip and surface being sprayed.
- Airless sprayers develop high pressures and at these pressures (about 2,000 psi), sprayer fluids could be inadvertently injected into the skin. Accordingly, never point an airless sprayer at any part of the body or another person.
- Keep hands and feet away from the airless sprayer tip.
- Be aware of the work environment and spray away from potential ignition sources such as electric receptacles or light switches, pilot lights, and hot objects.
- After turning an airless sprayer off, pull the spray trigger to release pressure in the hose.
- Always disconnect an airless sprayer from the power source before performing repairs, maintenance, or cleaning tasks.
- Never repair a damaged high-pressure hose. Always replace it.