

Workplace Hazards in Painting

This fact sheet is for students undertaking work experience programs, and for their host employers. It can be used as a tool to assist with task planning, and to develop appropriate induction, training and supervision to minimise any risk to students while they are 'at work'.

Students must be given instruction, and must be supervised at all times. Consideration must always be given to hazards when allocating tasks. If any risk exists, students must NOT undertake the activity.

Hazard	Possible Harmful Effects	Possible Employer Action to Prevent Injury / Illness	Preventative Action Students Can Take
Powered tools and non-powered tools including power drills, screwdrivers, chisels, cutters, sanders, sprayguns, compressors	Electrocution Eye injury Head injury	Students must NOT operate powered tools ♦ Provide instruction in safe use of hand tools	Students must NOT operate powered tools ♦ Use hand tools carefully, according to your instructions
Working at heights	Falls from heights, potential for fatality or serious injury	Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall	Students must NOT work at heights where there is any risk of a fall
Mobile platforms	Falls from heights, potential for fatality or serious injury Manual handling injuries when erecting mobile platform	Students must NOT operate mobile platforms	Students must NOT operate mobile platforms
Hazardous substances and dangerous goods including paint, varnish, solvent, thinners Dust Glues and fixatives	Skin and eye irritation Throat and lung irritation Dermatitis Acute effects include headaches, dizziness Long-term exposure may cause chronic effects to the liver, kidney, and the nervous system Some chemicals cause cancer Accidental contact between solvent and ignition source could cause explosion and fire	♦ Use the least hazardous product for each job ♦ Provide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) ♦ Store and dispense flammable solvents in approved safety cans only ♦ Provide adequate ventilation – open all doors and windows where practicable ♦ Schedule frequent fresh air breaks ♦ Store chemicals away from potential ignition sources ♦ Do not leave rags saturated with paint/thinners lying around – provide approved containers for disposal ♦ Provide appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)	♦ Read MSDS and follow safe working instructions ♦ Use PPE provided (e.g. overalls, mask or respirator, appropriate footwear)
Manual handling (bending, reaching, stretching, pulling, lifting, repetitive motions, awkward posture)	Musculoskeletal disorders including sprains and strains	♦ Document safe work procedures ♦ Provide mechanical aids ♦ Provide training in safe manual handling techniques ♦ Encourage team lifts where appropriate	♦ Use mechanical aids provided ♦ Seek help when you think a team lift is required ♦ Exercise: warm up/stretch before starting work, and cool down/stretch at end of the shift or working day
Enclosed areas (e.g. basements) with insufficient lighting and/or lack of adequate ventilation	Slips, trips and falls Breathing difficulties Collapse of structures - crushing	Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to risk	Students must NOT enter enclosed areas if they may be exposed to risk
Sexual harassment, work place bullying	Emotional stress, fear and anxiety, physical illness	♦ Establish work place policy ♦ Provide staff briefings or training	♦ Report any concerns immediately