

Painting Safety



Painters must be able to reach the far and high corners of structures like buildings, bridges and large signs. Painters can be exposed to falls, electric shock and cleaning chemicals. Ladders, aerial lifts and dust from drywall are also concerns. Review the following painting safety tips with your employees.

Tool Box Tips

CHEMICAL SAFETY

- Store flammables in approved containers.
- Keep chemical containers labeled.
- Reduce direct skin contact with chemicals. Wear appropriate protective gloves.
- No smoking around flammable cleaners.
- Never store cleaners in pails.

FIRST AID

- Flush eyes and skin immediately if exposed to paint or cleaning chemicals.
- Maintain a supply of clean water on the job site for skin and eye flushing.
- Seek medical treatment for severe exposure.

BEST PRACTICES

- Keep hoses and guns out of walkways.
- Do not point spray guns at yourself or coworkers.
- Check air compressor tanks for damage or corrosion.
- When using ladders on exterior floors, use non-slip mats to prevent ladders from “kicking out.”
- Maintain good housekeeping.
- Never operate an aerial boom or scissor lift unless trained and authorized.
- Use dollies to transport large paint buckets.
- Lift paint buckets safely by lifting with your legs.
- Never stand on top of paint buckets or on the top two rungs of step ladders.

These advisory materials have been developed from national standards and sources believed to be reliable, however, no guarantee is made as to the sufficiency of the information contained in the material and MEM assumes no liability for its use. Advice about specific situations should be obtained from a safety professional.