



Motor Trade Association of SA Environmental Fact Sheet

AIR POLLUTION

What is air pollution?

Emissions from vehicles and many of the solvents and chemicals used in spray painting, repairing and maintaining motor vehicles contribute to air pollution.

Air pollution includes dust fumes gases and smoke from sources such as overspray evaporation of solvent, dry sanding, poorly maintained vehicles and the release of chemical vapours.

What should you do?

Maintain a good public image and improve air quality for yourself and your family, minimise the amount of pollution you contribute to the atmosphere by following the directions below.

Ozone depleting substances

Ozone depletion results from refrigerant gases escaping into the atmosphere. Refrigerants are used in automotive air conditioning systems, a licence is required to work on them.

It is an offence to release refrigerants into the atmosphere. Refrigerants must be recovered by a person who is accredited and working for an organisation permitted to do that work. For information on accredited courses and permits see the Australian refrigeration council.

Brake cleaning

Clean brakes with a vacuum or wet cloth not compressed air as this creates a fine dust.

Burning

It is against the law to burn anything on a non domestic property.

Solvents

Organic solvents used in strippers and cleaners evaporate into the air and lead to smog.

If you can not use water based or biodegradable strippers, cleaners or degreasers then ensure that you reduce the amounts of solvent lost:

- Avoid spraying solvent
- Ensure that containers are kept closed
- Recover solvent from paint waste
- Use a parts cleaner with a lid and allow parts to drip dry before removing them

Spray painting

Use technology and staff training to reduce the amount of paint and solvent used. For example High Volume Low Pressure spray equipment or consider installing a computer based recipe system.

Regularly inspect, maintain and service your spray booth in accordance with the manufacturers specifications.

LPG

Manage gas cylinders by checking them annually with warm soapy water to ensure there are no minor leaks in the cylinder or the valve assembly. The warm soapy water will bubble when applied to the cylinder if there are any leaks.

Any questions call the MTA

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