



## Air Quality & Pollution

Air quality is an area that has been highly regulated due to climate change and the depletion of the ozone layer. The *Environment Protection Act 1970* is the main piece of legislation which governs discharges to air and the pollution of the atmosphere. There are also state policies which protect Victoria's air quality.

These are:

- *State Environment Protection Policy (Ambient Air Quality)*
- *State Environment Protection Policy (Air Quality Management)*
- *Industrial Waste Management Policy (Protection of the Ozone Layer)*
- *Waste Management Policy (Solid Fuel Heating)*

The *Environment Protection (Vehicle Emissions) Regulations 2003* are also important, as they specify standards and test methods for motor vehicle air and noise emissions.

## Common Causes of Air Pollution in the Automobile Industry

All businesses are required to limit and control air pollution. Common causes of air pollution include emissions from:

- Over spray from painting,
- The evaporation of solvent or volatile chemicals,
- Dusty operations such as dry sanding,
- Burning off,
- Poorly maintained vehicles, furnaces and self powered machines,
- The release of ozone depleting chemical vapours (like R12 refrigerant).

# Environmental Guidelines



## Managing Air Pollution

- Do not burn off waste.
- Redesign or avoid activities that create a lot of dust.
- Make sure that all spray painting is only carried out inside a spray painting booth with filtration.
- Regularly inspect and maintain your spray booth in accordance with the manufacturers' specifications.
- Use technology such as extraction and filtration systems to reduce the amount of chemical vapour discharged into the environment.
- Ensure employees are trained on techniques that are environmentally suitable and reduce the amount of chemical vapour discharged into the environment.
- Make sure that your spray booth complies with Australian Standards (AS 4114) and local council regulations.
- Properly maintain the air filters on plant and equipment.
- Never release R12 Refrigerant into the atmosphere.
- Read the MSDS of all materials used and ensure that illegal release does not occur.

## Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

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**Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic. Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.**