



FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP OF COMPANIES

Loss Control Information Bulletin

NUMBER 5

SPRAY FINISHING & SOLVENT STORAGE

Recently, a business was gutted by fire when paint residues, cleaned from a booth, were left in an open bucket inside the garage over the weekend. The residues ignited spontaneously. Had they been placed in a covered metal container and removed to a safe location outside of the building, this fire would have been avoided.

The hazards of spray painting are too often minimized. Lax compliance with fire safety rules can destroy your business. Many companies which experience a serious fire or explosion never rebuild, and others never rebuild in the same community.

Illustrations on the back provide suggestions to help avoid a serious fire loss from spray finishing and the storage, transferring and handling of flammable thinners.

The exhaust system should be designed to sweep airborne particles toward the baffles and filters. Be sure the air is filtered and exhausted outside of the building to avoid causing property damage or air pollution.

Frequently clean booths and exhaust components to prevent residue build-up. Change the protective covering on sprinkler heads often. Tools used in cleaning should be of non-sparking materials. Bonding and grounding of metal parts in spray areas will also reduce spark potential.

Use only Underwriter's Listed:

- **Electrical equipment** in booth, room or storage area
- **Safety cans** for thinners and limit quantity of paint and thinner to one day's supply
- **Waste cans** for safe disposal of paint and solvent-soaked cloths until they can be removed to a location outside

Use no bare lamps or other than U.L. listed electrical equipment where residue could accumulate. Provide a 20 foot distance horizontally between booth opening and any spark-producing equipment.





Interlock the lighting and ventilation system with spray equipment to prevent painting being done when exhaust fan is off.

Do not permit smoking — post signs and strictly enforce this policy.

Open flames or heating devices in the vicinity of spray areas should not be allowed.

Place quantities of paints, thinners, and other flammables in a separate outside storage building or room similar to drawing C.

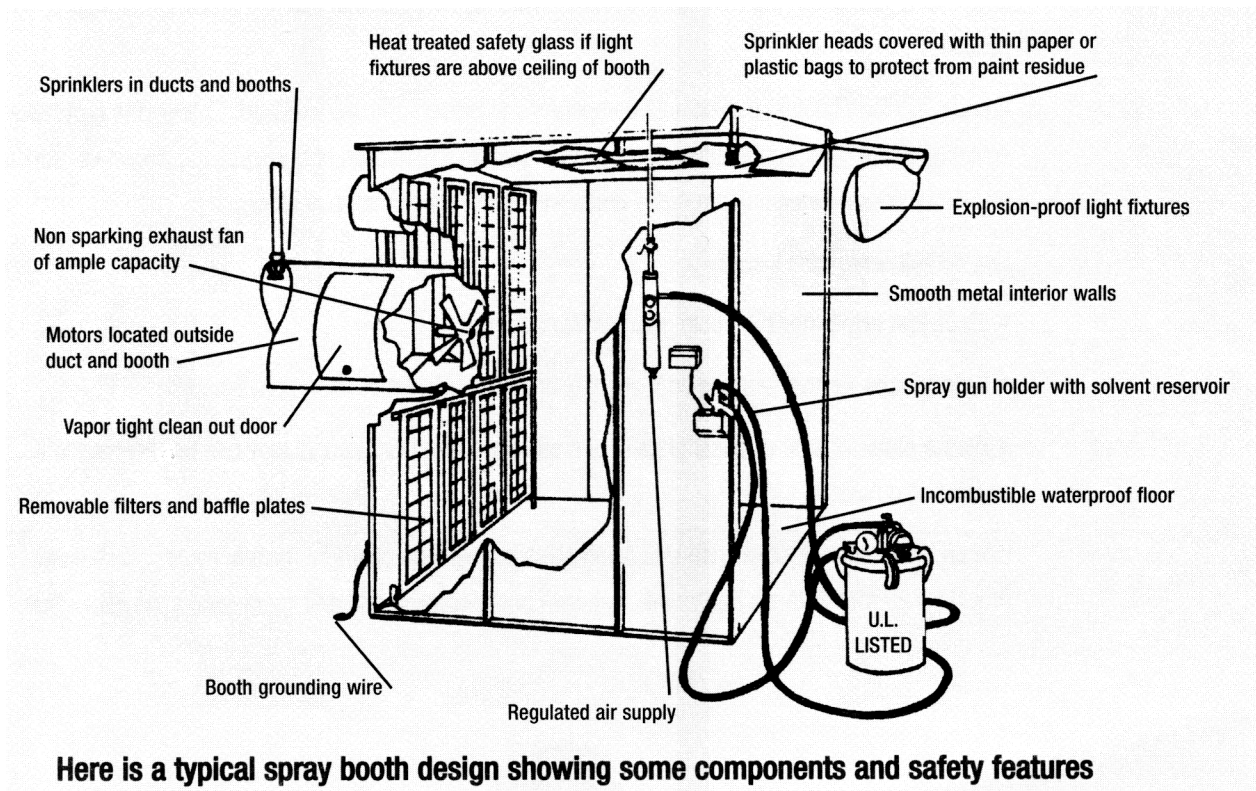
The use of pressure release drum bungs greatly reduces explosion potential.

U.L. listed transfer pumps have a drain-back feature which prevents loss of flammable liquid from the hose after use.

The use of wrenches, screwdrivers, and other tools made of a non-sparking alloy will further reduce the explosion hazards.

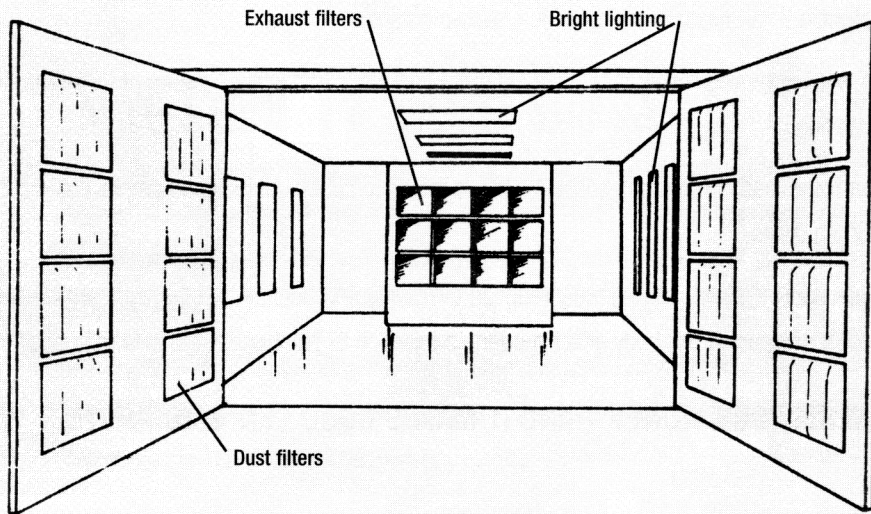
A. SPRAY BOOTH

Here is a typical spray booth design showing some components and safety features.



B. VEHICLE SPRAY PAINT BOOTH

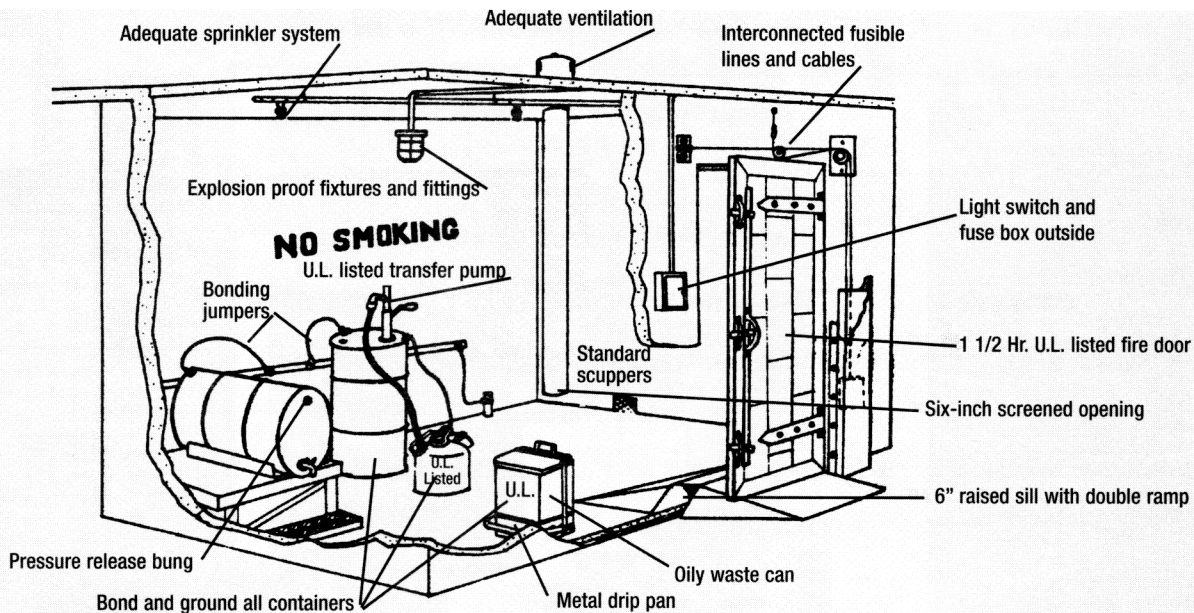
This vehicle spray booth should contain all the safety components suggested on previous page.



This vehicle spray booth should contain all the safety components suggested above.

C. FLAMMABLE STORAGE & TRANSFER ROOM

This fire-resistant room is designed to keep solvents, thinners and paints safely separate from the rest of operations.



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EMPLOYEE HEALTH & SAFETY

Many of the chemical agents used in painting operations are potential sources of respiratory irritation, dermatitis and eye injuries. Recognize these hazards and provide effective controls.

Insist that employees wear approved respirators, safety glasses and other protective equipment and keep them clean and in good condition.

The use of paints containing lead compounds poses a serious threat to health. All exposed employees must receive quarterly blood analyses.

Airless or high pressure spray systems have greatly reduced overspray and bounce into the work area. Spray guns must never be pointed at any part of the body or a hypodermic injection of paint under the skin may occur

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS, YOUR MONEY – AND IT MAKES GOOD SENSE TO PROTECT THEM!

