



PURPOSE

To provide general information on ventilation practices. Ventilation is required during coatings application and curing.

INTRODUCTION

Ventilation is required for both health and safety and coating film integrity reasons. Ventilation in confined spaces should only be carried out by suitably qualified professionals.

VENTILATION PRACTICES

Ventilation of a confined space should be by natural, forced or mechanical means to establish and maintain a safe atmosphere. This ventilation should be continued throughout the period of occupancy and drying/curing.

There are several methods for ventilating a confined space. The method and equipment chosen are dependent upon the size of the confined space openings, the gases to be exhausted (e.g. are they flammable?) and the source of makeup air.

A common method of ventilation requires a large hose, one end attached to a fan and the other lowered into a manhole or opening. For example, a manhole would have the ventilating hose run to the bottom to exhaust all harmful gases and vapors. An air intake should be placed in an area that will draw in fresh air only. Ventilation should be continuous where possible, because in many confined spaces the hazardous atmosphere will form again when flow of air is stopped.

DEFECTS DUE TO IMPROPER VENTILATION

The lack of ventilation during coating film formation can also lead to a number of film defects. These can include reductions in water and chemical resistance, adhesion, blistering, cracking, mechanical properties, tainting and/or contamination. If ventilation is not sufficient it will also retard the coating drying/curing time.

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