

FACT SHEET

Low VOC PAINT

Some urban regions in Australia do not meet the National Environmental Protection (Ambient Air Quality) goals for ozone. Information from the NSW Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water shows that Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) emissions, from surface coatings, are the third largest anthropogenic source of VOCs in urban areas.

Available at most paint outlets is low VOC paint. This type of paint contains very few of the VOCs that have traditionally acted as solvents in the paint and evaporate as the paint dries. In old-style paints this kept the paint wet and allowed it to be spread evenly and adhere to surfaces.

Most premium paint manufacturers have come out with their own version of low VOC paint. The growth in popularity of this type of paint has been driven by safety concerns, government caps on the amount of VOCs in paint, and consumer demand.

Purchasers of this type of paint should be aware that the amount of VOCs can vary depending on the colour. Darker colours usually have slightly higher VOC levels, often depending on the vendor's hues and colouration system. VOCs in paint are mainly released during the drying process.