

TIPS TO STORE YOUR PAINT STOCK PROPERLY

Have you thought about the factors that can affect the overall quality of a paint finish? To ensure that a shop's paint system performs as it was designed, it is critical to store and use paint products properly.

After a delivery, fresh stock should be put to the back of the stock shelves and also marked with the date of delivery to ensure that the stock is relatively fresh.

High solids solvent-based products are more sensitive to lower temperatures than normal solids solvent-based products. Although they will not freeze, the products can rise dramatically in viscosity resulting in several negative effects such as:

- Paint mixing can become more time consuming.
- Accurate dosing of tinters to make up colors can be slower and the temptation to overpour increases, which could lead to inaccurate color matches or too much paint being mixed up.
- Application becomes slower, increasing material consumption. In addition, overloading can occur where popping and/or sagging may result when baked.

Even standing a can of clear or hardener on a cool workshop floor is enough to remove the heat from the products. The tin cans are a good conductor of heat or cold, and this in turn will increase the viscosity.

The use of a wall-mounted thermometer is by far the easiest way to check if the ambient temperature for the product you are applying is satisfactory, but a simple



After a delivery, fresh stock should be put to the back of the stock shelves and also marked with the date of delivery to ensure that the stock is relatively fresh.

glass one is the best way to check if the product is at the correct temperature prior to application.

As always, be sure that the proper hardener and solvent is used for the temperature and the size of the repair. During cooler conditions, your hardener and solvent choices may need to be adjusted to maximize your system's performance. As the ambient temperature decreases, a faster-curing hardener and faster-evaporating solvent may be required to maintain performance.

It is also essential to check that you have your spray gun set up correctly for the material you are applying. Whether it is a high build primer, basecoat, solid color or clearcoat, you need to ensure that the needle and nozzle combination is correct and clean and that the fan pattern is even. Check for correct air pressure at the gun handle and not just by relying on the gauge of the wall-mounted filter/regulator.

(Source: PPG Industries)

30%

The Compact Performance niche was the fastest growing segment of the Specialty Automotive Equipment industry, with \$4.12 billion in sales in 2004 - a gain of 30 percent.

(Source: SEMA)

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Q. Technician A says ride height on every vehicle is always adjustable. Technician B says the ride height can only be adjusted on certain models. Who is correct?

- A.** Technician A **C.** Both A and B
B. Technician B **D.** Neither technician



The correct answer is B, Technician B. Ride height is usually only adjustable on vehicles with torsion bar springs. As part of an alignment job, ride height should always be checked and corrected by adjustment or by replacing parts as necessary.

QUICK TIP

Do not place a hybrid car in a paint booth if temperatures will exceed 140°F. The high-voltage battery pack — a series of nickel-metal-hydrid (NiMH) batteries — can be damaged.

(Source: Automotive Career Development Center)