



Paints and Coatings More Than You Know

Many man-made products are painted to make them more visually appealing or provide a protective coating.

Think about it – whether it's the desk in your office, the bookshelf, your computer, lamp or light fixture, all of these things have coatings.

Your children's sports equipment, the roof on your home and the local swimming pool all have special coatings. Airplanes, tanks and missiles; bridges, tunnels, and sailboats; ships, cars, tractor-trailers, and the space shuttle — and all of their component parts — have coatings too. Even the can of smoked almonds you opened as a snack is lined with a coating.

Coatings are used to beautify, protect and preserve nearly everything we own and use. They prolong the usefulness of our products, and provide protection from the scratches, moisture, and corrosion of everyday life.

Economic Contributions:

The economic contribution of the paint and coatings industry is significant.

- 354,900 people across the United States made a living working in the paint and coatings industry in 2006;
- Also in 2006, the industry was comprised of approximately 54,200 businesses;
- That same year, coatings products increased the value of other products to which they were applied by \$12 billion.
- In 2006, the paint and coatings industry's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product was \$20.9 billion; and
- Our companies exported \$1.6 billion in products.

The bottom line is that the paint and coatings industry is a significant contributor to the U.S. economy.



Environmental Footprint

The environmental footprint of the paint and coatings industry is getting better and better. For years, the industry has aggressively looked for strategies to produce paint products in an environmentally conscious way, without compromising product performance.

In 1996, NPCA established the Coatings Care® program, designed to provide industry members with a consistent set of practices for managing health, safety and environmental responsibilities. The program is recognized internationally, and has been adopted by the International Paint and Printing Ink Council (IPPIC), which represents the paint and printing inks industry in nine countries.

The U.S. paint and coatings industry has also partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through NPCA, as a participant in EPA's Sector Strategies Program, seeking out cost-effective methods for minimizing industry's impact on the environment.

Here is a short list of our environmental success:

- 97 percent of all waste solvents in paint and coatings manufacturing facilities are reclaimed for future use;
- Emissions of hazardous air pollutants have been reduced by 53 percent;
- In just a five-year period of time, the quantity of VOC (volatile organic compound) emissions from the use of paint and coatings was reduced almost 10 percent;
- 82 percent of all architectural coatings sales are environmentally preferable water-based paints; and
- The paint and coatings manufacturing sector accounted for less than one percent of the hazardous waste generated nationally in 2003.

As you can see, the paint and coatings industry is working hard to protect our environment.

Paints and coatings products beautify, preserve, and protect. The paint and coatings industry is environmentally responsible and a vital part of our economy.

For a moment, consider a world without paint.