

Support reduction in VOC emission

- ★ Choose paints with no-VOC or low-VOC contents, such as water-based paints. Avoid using solvent-based paints. When using water-based paints, there is no need to use organic solvent to dilute the paint or to clean the work area.
- ★ Consider the necessity of painting work and if positive, work out the coverage area and buy the right quantity of paints. In this way, you can minimize wastage.
- ★ Specify the use of low-VOC materials in building contracts.
- ★ Educate front-line staff on the environmental issues that relate to painting works.
- ★ Monitor the paint usage during construction to identify any wastage.
- ★ Discuss with the new tenants before you paint the flat, to avoid painting the flat twice within a short time span.

Benefits of low-VOC paints

- Health & Safety
- Easy to Clean Up
- Environmentally Friendly
- No Hazardous Fumes
- Effective
- No Hazardous Waste



For more information, please contact:

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or visit EPD's website
<http://www.epd.gov.hk>



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Protect our Blue Sky Limit VOC Emission!

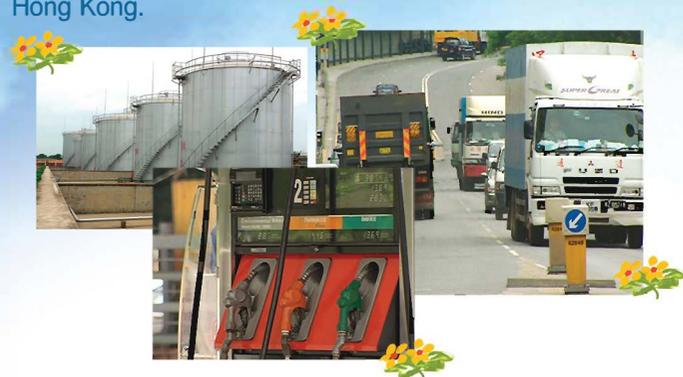
For Trade Professionals



環境保護署
Environmental Protection Department

What causes the smog problem in Hong Kong?

The regional smog problem is caused by emissions of pollutants from vehicles, industrial activities and power plants in the Pearl River Delta Region including Hong Kong.



According to research, the emission of Volatile Organic Compounds is one of the major reasons for smog formation.



What is VOC?

VOC is the abbreviation for Volatile Organic Compounds.

VOC are fumes emitted from solids or liquids that contain organic compounds. Most paints, printing inks, construction and renovation materials, cleaning solvents, disinfectants, insect sprays, cosmetics and hairsprays contain organic compounds.

When you use these products, organic compounds are discharged into the atmosphere. The photochemical reaction between organic compounds and nitrogen oxides in the presence of sunlight results in ozone which in the end becomes smog.



What are the health effects of in inhaling VOC?

A brief intake of high concentration of VOC would suppress our central nervous system. That is why one may have dizziness, headaches, or in a serious case, loss of consciousness.

Some VOC like benzene are toxic pollutants. Long term exposure could lead to increase risk in the sickness of leukemia and pernicious anemia.

How can the industry help reduce VOC emission?

Hong Kong is clustered with tall buildings. Architectural paints are one of the main sources of VOC emission. The more we can reduce VOC emission, the better we can tackle our smog problem.

The use of no-VOC or low-VOC paint products could help reduce VOC emission. Not only would that minimize our health risks, it would also reduce air pollution for a better environment for all.



The HKSAR Government has already enforced a regulation, effective since 1st April 2007, to control the content of VOC in architectural paints.

At the same time, it is important to obtain the support of the building and construction industry. All architects, designers, renovators, construction workers and property owners can team up in the planning and management, to prevent or reduce VOC emissions by using no-VOC or low-VOC paints, solvents and thinners.

