

---

## What if I can't afford to buy new equipment?

Low-interest loans are available through the Small Business Pollution Prevention Assistance Account. Through this program, you can borrow up to \$50,000, but no more than 75 percent of the total cost, at an annual rate of 2 percent for projects that reduce waste or energy consumption. The loan program is a joint venture between DEP and the Department of Community and Economic Development. Applications are available by calling 1-800-379-7448.

## Where can I get more information about the regulations?

Call the ENVIROHELP hotline at 1-800-722-4743, where assistance is free and confidential. The ENVIROHELP website is [www.pa-envirohelp.org](http://www.pa-envirohelp.org). Environmental information is available electronically via the Internet. Visit DEP through the Pennsylvania homepage at [www.pa.us](http://www.pa.us) or directly at [www.dep.state.pa.us](http://www.dep.state.pa.us) (directLINK: auto refinishing).



[www.GreenWorksChannel.org](http://www.GreenWorksChannel.org)

2700-PA-DEP2494 6/2000

Department of Environmental Protection  
Bureau of Air Quality  
400 Market Street  
12th floor RCSOB  
Harrisburg, PA 17101



---

# The Bottom Line on Refinishing



An overview  
of Pennsylvania's  
new regulations  
for auto refinishers



Tom Ridge, Governor

James M. Seif, Secretary

An equal opportunity employer

---

## *New regulations will save time and money*

Imagine saving money by complying with environmental regulations! The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) will be implementing new clean air regulations for auto refinishers that can do just that.

The regulations require the following:

- Switching from air-atomized spray-paint guns to high-volume low pressure (HVLP) guns or other equipment that applies paint more efficiently;

- Cleaning the spray guns in an enclosed system;
- Using paints that comply with federal standards for refinishing materials.

Initially, you may need to make a capital investment to buy this new equipment. But keep in mind that HVLP guns are more efficient than air-atomized spray guns, which means you will use less paint and spend less time painting.

In the end, this new regulation will reduce the amount of money you spend on supplies and the time involved in your work.

### **How much money will I save?**

It's difficult to estimate just how much each individual auto refinisher is going to save because it depends on how big your shop is. But DEP expects that some shops can save thousands of dollars in the long run -- by complying with the regulations. If you own a smaller shop, you might not see the returns as quickly. However, you will be doing your fair share to reduce harmful air pollution.

### **Why did DEP develop these new regulations?**

Auto refinishers use products like paints and solvents that contain hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) and volatile



organic compounds (VOCs), which are key ingredients when ground-level ozone forms during hot weather. Ozone can make it hard for people to breathe and can have serious health effects. The regulations also will help Pennsylvania meet federal standards for ozone pollution. In 1996, stakeholder groups in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia recognized the health effects of ground level ozone and the value of meeting the federal standards. The stakeholders recommended that DEP develop the auto refinishing regulations to help protect Pennsylvania's air quality. In 1999, stakeholder groups in South-central Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley endorsed the regulations.



The Pennsylvania Small Business Assistance Program

For free, confidential assistance, call ENVIROHELP at 1-800-722-4743 or visit [www.pa-envirohelp.org](http://www.pa-envirohelp.org)

### **When do I need to comply?**

The new regulations were published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on Nov. 27, 1999. You have one year from that date -- until Nov. 27, 2000 to comply.

### **Why are HVLP guns better?**

HLVP guns are more efficient than traditional air-atomized guns, which use more pressure and tend to spray paint over a wider area. Using less pressure, HVLP guns apply more paint on the item being painted. This reduces emissions, and you use less paint while applying it more effectively. It reduces the amount of work and the amount of money spent on paint.

### **What is a "cleaning system" for the guns?**

The regulations require you to clean spray-paint guns in an enclosed system, which can be as simple as a bucket with a lid. This will prevent the solvents from evaporating and emitting VOCs.

### **Do I need a permit or a spray booth?**

The regulations do not require a permit or spray booths.