

Protect yourself and others from isocyanate paint exposure

Three essential safety measures that must be in place where you work

HSE is inspecting bodyshops using isocyanate-containing paints and coatings.

Isocyanates are the leading cause of occupational asthma in the UK. Once you develop it, even tiny amounts can trigger an attack and force you out of the industry.

Three ways to stay safe:

1. Use proper breathing equipment

- Always wear visor-type air-fed breathing apparatus
- Never lift your visor until you're outside the spray area
- Check equipment is working before each use



2. Only spray in dedicated booths or rooms

- Use spray booths/rooms with extraction systems
- Never spray in open workshop areas
- Ensure extraction is working properly



3. Respect clearance times

- Isocyanate mist is invisible but still dangerous
- Wait for booth clearance time to pass completely
- Never enter spray areas during clearance



Protect your health and career

Find out more, visit:

workright.campaign.gov.uk/isocyanates/



© Crown copyright 2025

If you wish to reuse this information,
visit www.hse.gov.uk/copyright.htm for details.

First published 10/25.

Published by the Health and Safety Executive 10/25.