

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## HVLP SPRAY GUNS: Cost-effective, environment-friendly technology

SAVE \$\$\$\$\$ ON PAINT

PROTECT YOUR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT

REDUCE PAINT OVERSPRAY AND EMISSIONS

### Why should you use High-Volume Low-Pressure (HVLP) spray guns?

Paint spray contains harmful chemicals such as isocyanates, solvents, and paint additives. Painting with an HVLP spray gun significantly reduces overspray and as a result:

- (1) Releases of toxic chemicals into the air go down, helping protect you, your co-workers, and your shop's neighborhood.
- (2) The amount of paint you need to refinish a car goes down, saving your shop many dollars in paint costs (see graph).

### Can you achieve a high quality finish using HVLP spray guns?

**Yes!** Painters at many auto shops use only HVLP spray guns when refinishing cars, without sacrificing the quality of the finish, even for top coats. Of course, you'll need to make some technical adjustments to your pressure settings and spray cap when converting from a conventional spray gun to an HVLP spray gun. But once you do, you'll find that HVLP spray guns are relatively easy to use, reduce overspray, and produce a high quality finish.

### How can I get more information on HVLP spray guns, proper spray techniques, hazard controls, and other resources?

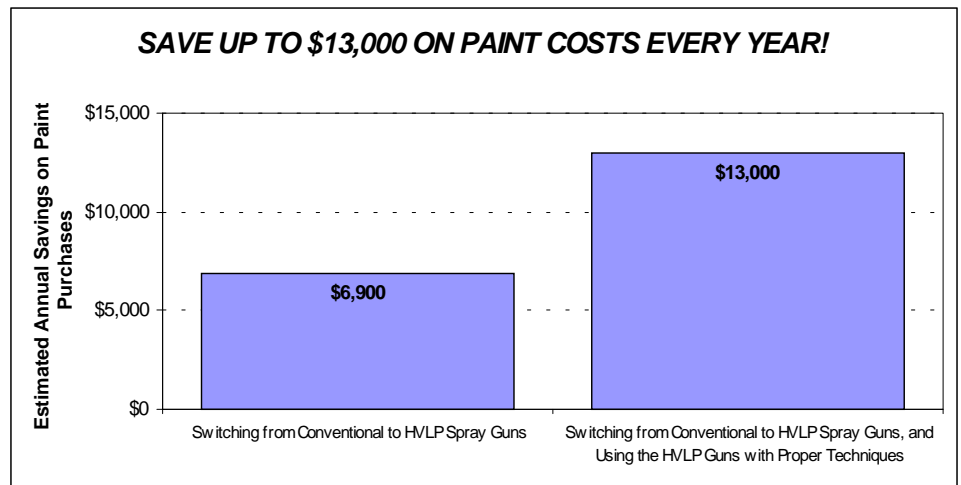
Contact the Spray Technique and Analysis Research (STAR) program at the Iowa Waste Reduction Center (1-800-422-3109; [www.iwrc.org](http://www.iwrc.org)) for technical assistance.

Talk to your jobber, paint distributor, or equipment supplier.



Consult with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) by either visiting their website ([www.cdc.gov/niosh/paintovr.html](http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/paintovr.html)) or calling 1-800-35-NIOSH.

Talk to Mary Cushmac (202-260-4443; [cushmac.mary@epa.gov](mailto:cushmac.mary@epa.gov)) or David DiFiore (202-2603374; [difiore.david@epa.gov](mailto:difiore.david@epa.gov)) of the DfE Project Team.



This graph highlights the dollar savings auto refinishing shops can realize in switching from conventional to HVLP spray guns. If painters use proper spray technique and gun settings, savings nearly double. Estimates are based on data from the STAR program\* at the Iowa Waste Reduction Center, for a shop that refinishes 15 cars per week.