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## Controlling Jobsite Liability Exposures for Painting Contractors

Painting contractors and their subcontractors may cause bodily injuries or property damage as a result of careless or improper actions on the jobsite. This handout provides recommendations for controlling jobsite liability exposures for painting contractors.

### Before Work Begins

- Identify any hazardous conditions present at the jobsite, such as asbestos, mold, or lead-based paint, which might affect the scope of work or require special work practices and equipment or affect your ability to complete the job.
- Inspect the jobsite for any damage. Note this damage to your client so that they are aware that you did not cause it.
- Make sure contract documents adequately describe what you will be doing and what you are responsible for at the job.
- Instruct clients to remove fragile and easily damaged items from the intended work area. Determine how you will protect hard-to-move or immovable objects.
- Examine all equipment that you will be bringing to the jobsite to ensure that it is in proper working order. Repair or replace improperly working equipment. Transport tools and supplies safely to the work area.
- Assign enough workers to perform the job safely. Make sure that any temporary workers are aware of your safety procedures.

### At the Jobsite

- Protect items that may be damaged by your work. Tape or remove door and window hardware and light switch covers. Lay drop cloths over rugs or furniture.
- Control access to the work area. Require authorized visitors to wear appropriate personal protective equipment. Do not allow non-employees in the work area when hazardous operations are taking place.
- Warn of hazardous conditions, such as wet paint, harmful chemicals, lead dust, or people working overhead, that are created by your work. Protect others from hazardous conditions left overnight.
- Supervise lesser-skilled employees. Ensure that all employees and sub-contractors follow safe work practices.
- Work safely overhead. Erect scaffolds and ladders properly. Use barricades or warning tape to restrict access to areas below work areas. Do not overload scaffolds. Collapse ladders when not in use. Restrict access to scaffolds left standing overnight.
- Maintain good housekeeping procedures to reduce accident hazards. Pick up tools. Keep walkways clear. Clean up paint spills promptly. Dispose of trash and other waste materials properly. Stack materials in an orderly manner.
- Prevent fires on the jobsite. Store flammable and combustible paints safely. Ventilate the work area to prevent the buildup of flammable vapors. Control ignition sources.

- Use chemicals safely. Provide Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) to workers and other contractors working in the area. Be sure to identify the hazardous properties of the materials. Follow the manufacturer's safety instructions. Close containers after use. Do not leave materials unattended.