

A QUICK GUIDE FOR DOOR AND WINDOW MANUFACTURERS

# REDUCE YOUR PAINT & COATING WASTAGE WITH THIS GUIDE FEATURING 7 PRACTICAL TIPS

## **Cut paint wastage and costs with this guide for door and window manufacturers**

One of the most critical factors for door and window manufacturers occurs during the finishing and protection of your joinery by applying just the right amount of coating to each product.

If not applied properly, significant time, money and paint can be wasted, affecting your bottom line. That's why we've put together this easy-to-follow reference guide for door and window manufacturers featuring 7 tips to reduce your coating wastage. Let's get right to it.



## TIP 01

### REDUCE SPRAY PRESSURE

When spray finishing exterior joinery, it's generally recommended to use an airless air-assisted (AAA) setup.

While most AAA pumps can generate upwards of 228 bar (3300 psi) and even higher, exterior wood paints typically require a pressure of less than half of that to achieve atomization.

Spraying at a higher pressure than is necessary can often lead to overapplication of the coating, and more wastage through overspray.

Combined with the additional energy costs of running the spray pump at a higher pressure, it can end up costing your business a lot of money.

**Bonus tip:** AQUATOP® VIRTU comes with **Teknos' Advanced Fluid-Flow Technology**, which allows the paint to atomize at much lower pressures than traditional exterior wood coatings. This can lead to up to 40% reductions in overspray wastage.

## TIP 02

### UNDERSTAND YOUR EQUIPMENT

Airless air-assisted pumps come with different specs. The first thing to understand is the pump ratio and how to calculate the pressure settings.

If your pump has a 45:1 ratio and you need to achieve 103 bar (1500 psi), the calculation is to divide the target pressure by the ratio. So,  $103 \text{ bar} / 45 = \text{set your pump to } 2.28 \text{ bar (33 psi)}$ .

Getting this calculation wrong can lead to considerable variables in the pressure delivered at the tip and cause unnecessary wastage (See Tip 1!).

You must also ensure your equipment is performing optimally. Performance

maintenance of the pump is vital. Like a car, you need to look after it. Regular cleaning, changing of filters and tips are all essential.

**Bonus tip:** Is the pump delivering the pressure it says it is? Install an in-line pressure gauge at the gun to ensure your pump delivers the desired pressure.



## TIP 03

### CHOOSE THE RIGHT TIP FOR THE JOB

**Tip size** – Using the proper tip for the job is essential. Consult your paint provider for advice on optimal pressure settings and tip sizes.

A tip with a wider fan width is typically the best approach for large items like door blanks, while a smaller fan width is better suited for windows and intricate joinery as it can help reduce overspray wastage.

**Bonus tip:** Check your tip quality. A worn tip allows a higher paint flow to pass through, resulting in excessive overspray. Test your tip weekly to ensure it's not worn.



### TIP 04

## HIT THE SPECIFICATION FOR CORRECT WET FILM THICKNESS. DON'T OVERUSE.

Exterior wood coatings come with a specification for the optimal film thickness. Make sure not to overapply the paint and that your coatings are spread consistently and evenly on the entire surface.

Over-application is not just a significant cause of paint wastage, it can give your joinery an inconsistent look, with patches and runs, plus, it extends drying times, therefore increasing overall production time.

**Bonus tip:** Use a wet film gauge to measure the thickness of the applied coating. This simple tool could save you time and money.

### TIP 05

## CONSIDER TIMBER QUALITY AND THE RIGHT PREPARATION

Your choice of timber, how it's machined and the surface preparation can all influence how much paint is required to achieve the correct film thickness and finish.

Never take shortcuts by avoiding the proper preliminaries to prepare your wooden doors and windows.

Not only does this preparation work ensure a more professional-looking and smoother surface, but it also helps with performance and longevity.

Skipping this step is certain to result in wasted paint, time and money. Not to mention frustration.



### TIP 06

## USE THE RIGHT APPLICATION TECHNIQUE

An efficient spray technique will reduce overspray and ensure a consistent film thickness across the entire piece of joinery.

For example, when spraying a window, it's easy to over-apply paint in the corners of the frame as you'll pass them from multiple angles during the process.

Also, it's important to be mindful of keeping an appropriate distance from your window or door when spraying. Too close could mean overapplication, and too far away could mean a lot more overspray.

The sweet spot for a good distance is typically between 25 and 30 centimeters or 10 and 12 inches.

### TIP 07

## CHOOSE A HOPPER OVER A SUCTION HOSE

If you're manually spraying one colour all day long, using a suction hose setup can be faster and more efficient. However, if you change colours and clean the pump through regularly, you'll waste less paint with a hopper setup.

A hopper setup is typically more prudent when working with a smaller amount of paint or if there are a limited number of your door or window supplies that you're working with.

Cleanup is also faster through a hopper and often requires less water!





## LOOKING FOR A HIGH-PERFORMANCE PAINT WHICH CAN ALSO SAVE YOU MONEY?

**AQUATOP® VIRTÀ** delivers to the demands of door and window manufacturers

Specially developed by Teknos for exterior wood applications, **AQUATOP® VIRTÀ** comes with **Teknos Advanced Fluid-Flow Technology**. This groundbreaking innovation allows atomization at much lower pressures. So, when spraying windows and intricate joinery, you could reduce your overspray wastage by up to 40% (compared to traditional high-build coatings).

It features quick drying technology with exceptional early moisture resistance and blocking performance, making it the ideal choice for a range of environmental conditions, including high humidity locations and fluctuating temperatures.

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Transform your surfaces with our high-quality solutions and services, brought to you by over 1400 passionate experts. We'll be with you every step of the way.  
You can move forward with confidence, from large-scale industrial projects to home renovations.

Let's explore the unexpected possibilities of paint and coatings, so that together we can make the world last longer.  
For further information, visit [www.teknos.com](http://www.teknos.com).

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