

Fact Sheet

Air Pollution – Paint and Chemical Spray Drift

Spray drift from activities like spray painting and chemical spraying can cause a nuisance to neighbours and interfere with their normal daily activities. If severe enough, it can impact on people's health. Paint and chemical spray drift can come from numerous sources at a residential premises including aerosols, chemicals, paints, pesticides, fertilisers, and other fine mists. This fact sheet can help you to reduce spray drift and meet legal requirements.

Be a good neighbour

Talk to neighbours. Find out what concerns they may have and seek suggestions about solving any problems. Solutions can often be found that satisfy everyone.

The law

Council investigates most spray drift complaints using the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*. If issues between neighbours cannot be resolved and further complaints are made, Council can investigate. Some sites have a development approval with conditions. Council investigates complaints about these sites using the *Planning Act 2016*.

The criteria

When investigating a spray drift complaint, Council will consider:

- whether the site has a development approval with a condition specific to chemical or paint emissions
- the amount of spray, contaminant, or pollutant being emitted
- the duration and rate of emission and the drift's characteristics and qualities
- the sensitivity of the environment into which the drift is being emitted and the impact it has had or may have
- views of any other neighbours
- any measures that have been taken or could reasonably have been taken by the person causing the emission
- any other relevant criteria

Ways to reduce spray drift emissions

Work indoors

Try to conduct all spray painting in an enclosed area such as a shed. Windows and doors should be kept shut.

Observe weather conditions

Consider the weather conditions before starting work. Try to schedule work when the weather is fine and not in gusty or strong winds. Spray drift complaints are more frequent in summer, when people are outdoors, and houses are left open for ventilation.

Use accurate equipment

Technology is rapidly changing to produce equipment that is more accurate and reduces overspray. If you only require a small area of coverage, it may be more practical to brush on the product rather than spray. Always use paints, chemicals, and equipment in accordance with manufacturer's guidelines.

Physical barriers

If spraying must be done outdoors, consider erecting physical barriers such as sheets or hessian. It is important to consider the location, height, and width of the barrier prior to construction. Most importantly, check the wind direction.

Consider alternative locations

Some spraying cannot be carried out in areas without creating a nuisance to neighbours. Consideration may need to be given to relocating to a commercial location or one that houses a spray booth.

Complaints not investigated by Council

If you think that spray drift or chemical misuse has occurred, it is important that you report it to the correct authority. Council shares responsibility for paint and chemical spray drift complaints with other government agencies. Council does not investigate the following:

<u>Regulatory Authority</u>	<u>Concern</u>	<u>Possible Sources</u>
Department of Environment and Science	Spray drift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally relevant activity regulated by Department (e.g., chemical manufacturing) • A state or local government premises or activity • Environmental damage where spray drift may have affected waterways, vegetation, or trees
Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	Spray drift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally relevant activity regulated by Department (e.g., poultry farming)
Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority	Adverse experience from agricultural chemical use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noticeable harm/impact on humans, animals, and crops • Noticeable effects to the environment • Visible lack of product effectiveness
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland	Human health issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-farm chemical misuse incident involving human exposure to chemicals • Related concerns about risks to human health
Biosecurity Queensland	Agricultural chemical misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural chemical misuse incidents • Spray drift damage to, or abnormal growth in commercial crops • Suspected injury or residue contamination to livestock • Crop or livestock issues
Civil Aviation Safety Authority	Aerial spraying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overflying of aerial spraying aircraft over residential homes
Department of Transport and Main Road	Spray drift	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining public and State-controlled roads, railways, or other public transport infrastructure