



Automotive Paint Booth Tip Sheet

Paint booths provide essential ventilation for auto-body painters and protect new coats of paint from dust and other debris, tasks that require energy. But technological advances have made these booths increasingly efficient.

Here are answers to questions to help you save money and energy on your paint booth:

Q. What should I look for in a paint booth to bolster energy efficiency?

A. Some paint booths contain technologies to improve efficiency. These include:

- **High-volume, low pressure (HVLP) spray guns** – By reducing the required pressure, air compressors use less energy by operating less frequently. Some newer guns trigger the booth ventilation system to run for 15 minutes after the gun is used, protecting safety (ensuring that the ventilation system is turned on) while also ensuring that the ventilation system will be turned off when it is not needed.
- **High-efficient lights** – Many paint booths now include T8 or T5 lights that use less energy than older, bulkier lights. More efficient light systems also may be better quality, requiring fewer bulbs.

Q. Are there financial incentives for installing energy-efficient paint booths?

A. Financial incentives, such as utility rebate programs, may be available to help reduce the up-front cost of efficient paint booths. Two such programs in Minnesota are the Small Business Environmental Improvement Loan Program and the OSHA Safety Grant Program, may be available to businesses that improve their workplace environments. Contact Energy Smart at (651) 292-4652 to find out more about these programs and other incentives available to you.

Q. Are there other resources that might help?

A. Yes, here are two helpful online resources on paint booth efficiency:

“A Dealer Guide to ENERGY STAR® Putting Energy into Profits”

http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/small_business/BM31jan22.pdf

“HVLP Spray Guns: Cost-Effective, Environment-Friendly Technology”

<http://www.epa.gov/dfe/pubs/auto/spraygun/>

Have questions or need help? Call Energy Smart anytime at (651) 292-4652.