-SPRAY GUN TECHNIQUE

A good painter is able to produce a quality finish by controlling 3 aspects of his application technique. Those 3 aspects are outlined below.

**SPRAY GUN ANGLE**

The recommended spray gun angle is 90° in relation to the surface being sprayed. At this angle, the product is transferred evenly to the surface.

Maintaining a perfect 90° angle to all surfaces is impossible, using it as a guideline increases the chances of the paint being deposited evenly.

This proper gun angle also reduces the possibility of striping or metallic mottling and better ensures proper film build and drying characteristics.

**SPRAY GUN SPEED, PATH AND OVERLAP**

Maintaining an even spray gun travel speed helps ensure uniform film build. The best way to judge gun speed is to watch the way the paint is striking the panel. Ask yourself the following questions while spraying:

**•** Is the paint laying down correctly?

**•** Is it wet enough?

**•** Is it even enough?

The spray gun path or overlap should provide the proper “wetness” without creating excessive film build. Use a consistent overlap of 50-75% as recommended in the PDS to achieve even film build characteristics in *solvent borne* products.

When spraying tri-stage or candy paint, the overlap must be increased to **90%** to achieve an even finish in the color.

SPRAY GUN DISTANCE

The distance from the surface will vary based on the repair size and the spray equipment used. The most common distance for PPG solvent borne products is 6-9 inches.

**PROPER DISTANCE** 6-9”

Holding the gun at the recommended distance allows the right amount of material to reach the panel, aiding in flow and leveling.

This technique enables the following:

**•** Allows the correct in-flight solvent loss

**•** Dries and cures correctly

**•** Provides even film build

**•** Allows for proper adhesion

**CLOSER DISTANCE** 3-4”

Holding the gun closer than recommended restricts the separation of atomized particles, resulting in excessive wetting of the product.

Holding the gun too close:

**•** Drives solvent-rich material onto the surface, leading to insufficient film build

**•** Traps solvents that can lead to die-back and solvent popping

**•** Slows dry and cure times

**GREATER DISTANCE** 10-15”

Holding the gun farther back from the surface than recommended allows the atomized product to widely separate and will lack the required wetting on impact.

Holding the gun too far:

**•** Causes material loss due to in-flight solvent loss

**•** Dries product too fast (will have a dry, rough film)

**•** Results in insufficient film build

**•** Causes improper wetting of material

**•** May require more coats to cover