



## Paints and Coatings **More Than You Know**

Many man-made products are painted to make them more visually appealing or provide a protective coating.

Think about it — whether it's the desk in your office, the bookshelf, your computer, lamp or light fixture, all of these things have coatings.

Your children's sports equipment, the roof on your home and the local swimming pool all have special coatings. Airplanes, tanks and missiles; bridges, tunnels, and sailboats; ships, cars, tractor-trailers, and the space shuttle — and all of their component parts — have coatings too. Even the can of smoked almonds you opened as a snack is lined with a coating.

Coatings are used to beautify, protect and preserve nearly everything we own and use. They prolong the usefulness of our products, and provide protection from the scratches, moisture, and corrosion of everyday life.

### **Economic Contributions:**

- The U.S. paint and coatings industry employed over 348,900 people in 2007.
- In 2006, product shipments by U.S. paint and coatings producers totaled \$22.5 billion.
- The industry is comprised of approximately 54,600 establishments.
- The payroll for the U.S. paint and coatings industry reached \$13.5 billion in 2007.
- The United States exported \$1.6 billion in paint and coatings products in 2007, up by three percent or \$43 million from 2006.



## **Environmental Footprint**

The environmental footprint of the paint and coatings industry is getting better and better. For years, the industry has aggressively looked for strategies to produce paint products in an environmentally conscious way, without compromising product performance.

The American Coatings Association (ACA) — a non-profit association representing the industry — is an active participant in the Paint Product Stewardship Initiative. This collaborative effort promotes leftover paint management solutions that are both financially and environmentally sustainable.

The U.S. paint and coatings industry has also partnered with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or EPA, through ACA, as a participant in EPA's Sector Strategies Program, seeking cost-effective methods for minimizing industry's impact on the environment.

Here is a short list of our environmental success:

- The industry reduced hazardous air pollutants by 67% between 1993 and 2005.
- Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) releases by the paint and coatings sector decreased by 65% between 1993 and 2005.
- The paint and coatings sector's total air emission EPA Toxicity Score declined by more than 87% from 1994 to 2005.
- 82% of architectural coatings sales are environmentally preferable water-based paint.
- The paint and coatings manufacturing sector accounted for less than 1% of the hazardous waste generated nationally in 2003.
- The industry recycles and/or recovers 88% of wastes it generates.

As you can see, the paint and coatings industry is an environmentally responsible and vital part of our nation's economy.

**For a moment, consider a world without paint.**