

Department of Environment and Local Government

Small Sources of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)

Some solids and liquids are made up of compounds that have a high vapour pressure and easily evaporate into the air. These compounds are known as volatile organic compounds or VOCs.

VOCs can be emitted from a number of different products, including: paints and lacquers, paint strippers, wood preservatives, cleaning supplies, glues and adhesives, stored fuels and automotive products.

Anyone using VOCs should consider the proper ventilation and storage of these products. The suggestions below will assist in maintaining compliance with provincial environmental legislation and limiting exposure to neighbouring properties.

Anyone using more than 5000 Litres per year of product containing VOC's (paint, thinner, etc.) may require an Approval to Operate from the Department of Environment and Local Government. Facilities in this category should contact the department at (506) 453-2690 or see our website at: http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/services/services_renderer.3755.Air_Quality_Approvals_and_Permits.html

Ventilation and Storage

- Facilities that use materials that release VOCs should design, install and operate a localized ventilation system that collects the VOCs and vents them through a stack having a minimum exit velocity of 15 meters per second.
- The stack should be located far enough away from neighbouring properties as to not create a nuisance.
- The localized ventilation system should be in operation whenever VOC releasing materials are being used and continue for at least two hours after use.
- The VOC releasing materials and the associated wastes should be stored in covered containers to prevent any release of VOCs during storage.
- Areas of buildings where VOC releasing materials are being used should be isolated to prevent the release of VOCs into other areas of the building or directly outside through open doors and windows.