

The Center for the Polyurethanes Industry Statement on the Safe Use of Two-Component Low-Pressure Spray Polyurethane Foam

As energy efficiency continues to grow in popularity, so does the use and awareness of spray polyurethane foam (SPF). The safe use of SPF products is important to the members of the American Chemistry Council's Center for the Polyurethanes Industry (CPI).

There are various types of SPF including two-component low-pressure SPF. Some manufacturers of two-component low-pressure SPF may limit the use of this product to professional contractors, or may also have specific training or other requirements that need to be met before these products can be used.

CPI members emphasize the importance of all applicators of two-component low-pressure SPF taking the following safety precautions:

- Seek health and safety training to learn good safety practices to use from the start to finish of an application. Some training resources for two-component low-pressure SPF are available at www.spraypolyurethane.org.
- Carefully read product manufacturer Material Safety Data Sheets for information about the potential health effects, chemical properties, and how to control exposure.
- Individuals with a history of skin conditions, respiratory allergies, or asthma undergo medical surveillance to discuss the potential health effects associated with using these products. This step is also important to assess whether a user is medically fit to wear the personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended by the manufacturer.
- Use appropriate respiratory protection like a NIOSH-approved air-purifying respirator that has been fit tested and equipped with the appropriate organic vapor cartridge and particulate filter.
- Use recommended PPE to avoid skin and eye contact with SPF chemicals. PPE includes fabric gloves coated with nitrile, neoprene, butyl rubber, or PVC; disposable coveralls to cover all exposed skin; and safety glasses with side shields or safety goggles.

Because of these extensive safety precautions, CPI recommends that building and home owners consider a trained professional contractor to apply two-component low-pressure SPF. Trained professional contractors have access to a wide variety of training; are familiar with these important safety precautions, local codes and regulations; and can offer guidance about the type and amount of insulation to be used.

Safety is a top priority for CPI and its member companies. CPI is working on a number of important product stewardship projects intended to enhance the understanding of both the benefits of SPF, the potential risks of overexposure to the chemicals in SPF, and safe use and handling practices during installation. Whether you're a building or home owner hiring someone to install SPF, an SPF contractor, builder or weatherization professional, CPI's website, www.spraypolyurethane.org, will give you the facts about SPF and important safety guidelines that should be followed during application.

DISCLAIMER: CPI and its member companies believe that this document is, as of the date of publication, a technically accurate statement based on available information. However, CPI and its member companies do not make any warranties, express or implied, regarding the completeness or accuracy of the information presented and assume no responsibility for its use or for updating or revising the information provided after publication.