



PAINTS AND VARNISHES

Fake news

Painting products, like other chemical products in general, are often object of alarmist messages and are indicated as the cause of environmental pollution and human diseases, making us worry about our safety and health.

But is that right? The chemistry, furthermore in Europe, is one of the most regulated sectors. The prejudice linked to chemical products has its roots far distant in time and which refers to productive conditions that today are completely overtaken.

In terms of environmental, social and economic sustainability, chemical industry is a virtuous sector and its products are completely safe and controlled.

Paints and varnishes, surely, are not an exception!

With this brochure, prepared in collaboration with experts of the Paint and Varnishes Department of Innovhub SSOG¹ – Experimental Station for the Industry, we want to reveal some of the most diffused fake news and we want to give correct information about our products.

**Paints on our houses' walls
are carcinogenic**

FALSE

On this argument you can keep calm! The European legislation, in fact, (**Regulation EU n. 1907/2006 – “REACH”**) bans the production and the sale to the consumer of carcinogenic chemical product.

Source:

<https://chemicalsinourlife.echa.europa.eu/how-are-chemicals-controlled>



¹ <http://www.innovhub-ssi.it/web/stazione-sperimentale-per-gli-oli-e-i-grassi/laboratorio-pitture-e-vernici>

**Painting products
make us sick**

FALSE



VOCs – Volatile Organic Compounds – emitted from paints applied in our homes, represent only the 1,3% of agents, which are present in the indoor air, potentially harmful for the health. Diseases linked to the quality of the air we breathe in buildings are in fact due, moreover, to the exposition to fine powders, to carbon monoxide and to the humidity of indoor spaces.

Source: “Promoting Actions for healthy indoor air (IAIAQ)” – DG Health & Consumer, European Commission - 2011 (page 10)

**Paints and varnishes are
harmful such as cigarettes**

FALSE

Paint products sold to the general public, unlike cigarettes, are not carcinogenic for users (**Regulation EU n. 1907/2006 – “REACH”**). Paints emit some chemical substances (such as VOCs), but only for a limited time with respect to their duration.

More information:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3084482/>



**Paints heavily pollute the
air we breathe**

FALSE

The European legislation (Directive 2004/42/EU) imposes maximum threshold for volatile substances, minimizing the environmental impact of painting products for decorative and car refinish sectors.

More info:

<http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/air/stationary/solvents/legislation.htm>

**Paints for the “do-it-yourself”
are full of heavy metals**

FALSE

Painting products for the free sale can contain at most 1% of heavy metals (mercury, lead, silver etc...). These limits are imposed by REACH regulation through specific restrictions.

More info:
<https://echa.europa.eu/substances-restricted-under-reach>



**“Natural” varnishes are safer
than the traditional one**

FALSE

Raw materials used in traditional varnishes grant same safety levels of paints formulated with products which are not resulting from industrial processes. Raw materials in traditional varnishes have a verified origin and a constant quality.

More info:
<https://www.iso.org/ics/87.040/x/>

TO CONCLUDE

It's easy to be influenced by all alarmistic messages that every day bombard us and that concern the common things of our daily life.

Anyway, be aware on the reliability of this great number of news, often not based on scientific data.

European laws, as well as those of each other Country at elevated industrialization, strictly regulate all products placed on the market in order to make them as safe as possible for man health and for the environment.

If you want to learn more about paint products and companies producing them visit us on:
<http://avisa.federchimica.it/en/home>.

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