Be Safe, Not Sorry

When the time comes to spot paint your vehicle with chemical agent resistant coating—CARC—make sure you do it safely!

Paint Is Paint

No matter what type of paint is used, OSHA’s safety standards for spot painting are the same. CARC is as safe to use as any other paint when you take the necessary precautions.

Most of the confusion about CARC comes when people latch onto the word “chemical,” as in dangerous to use. The key word in CARC is “resistant,” as in resistant to chemical attack. Once properly applied to your vehicle, CARC doesn’t soak up chemical agents the way some other paint does. It resists the penetration of those chemical agents.

Breathing Easy

Respiratory protection is required in the use of all paints, not just CARC. Your local industrial hygienist can help you identify the needed equipment.

They just bead up on the surface like water on a newly waxed car. So you can do a quick, complete decontamination and get back to completing your mission.

Don’t Stop There

You also need to follow these important safety measures:

- Cover as much of your skin as possible. That means wearing coveralls and rubber gloves from the No.1 Common shop set.
- Wear chemical splash goggles, NSN 4240-00-052-3776, not safety glasses, to protect your eyes from paint or thinner.
- Keep thinner or paint away from an open flame, welding torch or fuel-burning heater.
- Be sure to use the paint-spray respirator, NSN 4240-01-259-4572, when you spot paint with CARC. If you don’t have a respirator, use Appendix A of CTA 50-970 as authority for ordering one.

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● Grind CARC off the front and back of any area that needs welding. CARC releases toxic gases and fumes when it burns. Breathing these fumes can cause lung damage and severe eye and skin irritation. Make sure you use respiratory protection with a HEPA filter.

More Help
For more CARC safety and health precautions, see the following pubs:
- TM 43-0139, Painting Instructions for Army Materiel
- TB 43-0242, CARC Spot Painting
- TB 43-0209, Color Marking and Camouflage Painting of Military Vehicles, Construction Equipment, and Materials Handling Equipment
- TM 55-1500-345-23, Painting and Marking of Army Aircraft
- TB 43-0118, Field Instructions for Painting and Preserving Communications-Electronics Equipment

● If you use an electric drill accessory to mix paint in a metal container, ground both the container and the drill first. The paint fumes are flammable, so static electricity can be dangerous.

Make sure all electrical equipment is grounded before starting any painting.

Ah, my collection is complete!

Follow these tips and you'll paint a real masterpiece!

You won't want to get a whiff of me!