



## STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL PAINT & COATINGS ASSOCIATION

### **Latex Paint Does Not Pose a Threat to Those Who Suffer from Latex Allergies**

The National Paint & Coatings Association (NPCA) would like consumers to know that the type of latex found in latex paints is not the same type of latex found in products that trigger latex allergies. In a recent report aired on ABC television's "20/20" on March 14, 1997, noted that commonly-used products containing latex have caused allergic reactions — sometimes severe — in approximately one to six percent of the population. These allergic reactions have most commonly been associated with surgical gloves and other natural latex products worn close to the skin.

The key distinction for latex in paint is that it is generally synthetic (polymerized from various monomeric materials, principally vinyl acetate and various acrylates) and dispersed in water. By contrast, the latex used in other products is usually naturally derived from rubber tree sap and contains, among others, hydrocarbon polymers and proteins. In particular, the protein component of natural latex is regarded as the likely cause of allergic reactions.

Because of these and other differences, consumers need not be concerned about using latex paint and developing the allergic reactions that have been associated with natural latex.

For more information, NPCA can be reached by phone, fax, e-mail or regular mail:

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