



VOC 101

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's)

The term 'volatile' refers to a solid or liquid that readily evaporates at a normal temperature. An organic compound is one based on carbon and hydrogen. Therefore, Volatile Organic Compounds are organic chemicals that easily evaporate at normal temperature and pressure. Many solvents, aerosol propellants and petroleum distillates are VOC's.

Why be concerned about VOC's?

VOC's are an ingredient in the formation of ground-level ozone, also known as 'smog'. Smog contributes to respiratory problems for humans and animals and extended exposure can lead to asthma, pneumonia and bronchitis. Peak smog levels typically occur during hot, dry, stagnant summertime conditions.

How are VOC's regulated?

The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) has developed air quality standards for ground-level ozone and requires states to monitor and maintain 'safe' levels of ozone through permitting and regulatory initiatives.

In order to meet the federal standards, several states have created regulations that limit the amount of VOC's in consumer products. California was the first state, in 1989, to set VOC limits by product type and category. Other states have followed California's lead and have created 'Model' Consumer Products VOC Rules that can be adopted by member states.

Be sure to check our website (www.superiorzero.com) frequently to see if your state has been added.