

# Guidelines for Personnel and Workplace Contaminants

There are two areas of concern related to personnel in the production or re-packaging areas of a supplier's process:

1. Personal care products - lotions, hair gels, deodorants, etc.
2. Molded products that were produced with the use of silicone (polysiloxane) containing release agents.

The best approach for all suppliers that produce materials for PPG Automotive Coatings is to conduct a risk assessment at each facility followed by the implementation of appropriate preventive measures.

## Personal care products

Be aware that many personal care products (lotions, hair gels, deodorants, de-fog spray, hand sanitizer, etc.) contain ingredients that can cause the crater defect in coatings. The risk of contamination can be significant depending on the proximity of personnel to the materials being produced or packaged for PPG.

In operations where bare hands may come into contact with PPG product, be aware that most hand lotions can cause craters at very low levels of concentration in our coatings. Silicone free lotions are available.

As well, be aware of spray products for cleaning or de-fogging eyeglasses that can cause craters and the spray applicators can spread the contaminant over a wider and longer distance. Silicone free versions of these products are also available.

Check the labels and/or consult to product vendors to ensure that silicone free products are used in the workplace.

## Commonly Used Contaminants

The most popular release agent used in the molding process is silicone based material. Be aware of these common items and conduct a risk evaluation to ensure that they are not in close proximity to PPG product.

Some types of gloves, such as neoprene, can cause false results in crater testing. For critical sampling or testing, rinsing or wiping the gloves before use is recommended

Soft plastic wristbands, bracelets, phone cases, etc. typically have residual silicone on the surfaces from the mold release agent. These should not be permitted to be in close proximity to PPG materials.