

murobond coatings

VOC levels

volatile organic compounds

An increasingly common term in the paint industry and environmental discussions generally is the term VOC which is the short form of Volatile Organic Compounds.

Increasingly pressure is being placed on paint makers and paint users to look for low or zero VOC products, however for us to make the best decision we need to better understand what VOC's are.

'Organic Compounds' means chemicals that are built on carbon and 'Volatile' is currently accepted in most countries as a boiling point of less than 250°C. However, the debate around VOC's is a political one and this has led to exemptions and inclusions which are different in different countries, and often inconsistent. Further to this, there is a difference between different VOC's with alcohols not only being enjoyable on occasion, but also much shorter lived in the atmosphere (and therefore much less damaging) than its excluded brother acetone.

In Australia, acetone - which is an organic compound - and whose boiling point is considerably lower than 250°C is not classified as a VOC while ammonia which is not an organic compound is classified as a VOC.

More recently those with an interest in one of the most common coalescents have successfully argued for the acceptance of a new test method which shows a boiling point of 251°C – under the old test method its boiling point was deemed to be 246°C! Our declared results below include this coalescent if it is present in our formulae (most don't contain this ingredient).

The weakness with the environmental argument becoming a political and commercial one is that these perspectives are, more often than not, mutually exclusive and this has already compromised our ability (consumers and manufacturers) to choose the best environmental outcome. Until we differentiate between VOC's we are wise to be wary of simple claims of benefit.

MUROBOND PRODUCT	VOC LEVEL	GREEN BUILDING COUNCIL CURRENT VOC COMPLIANCE
PURE Low Sheen Acrylic Exterior	<38g/Litre	<50g/Litre
PURE Flat Acrylic Interior	<38g/Litre	<16g/Litre
Murowash	<10g/Litre	<50g/Litre
PURE Low VOC Low Sheen	<2g/Litre	<16g/Litre
Bridge Paint	<50g/Litre	<75g/Litre
PURE Aqua Satin	<50g/Litre	<75g/Litre
PURE Aqua Gloss	<50g/Litre	<75g/Litre
Low VOC Ceiling Flat	<3g/Litre	<16g/Litre
Low VOC Primer	<2.5g/Litre	<65g/Litre