

What Are Voc's And Why Is Everyone Talking About Them?

VOC stands for Volatile Organic Compound. VOCs include formaldehyde, many pesticides, solvents and cleaning chemicals, as well as some ingredients that are not considered particularly hazardous, such as propylene glycol and natural aromatherapy oils. As far as coatings (stain, paint, varnishes, etc.) are concerned, in general, the higher the VOC level, the easier it is to apply in less than ideal weather. Historically, common VOCs like mineral spirits have been the main chemicals in a coating that aid in proper film development and adhesion in cold weather.

Recent changes in environmental laws require manufacturers to use fewer VOCs in their formulations. Contrary to some reports, lowering the VOC level does not necessarily mean the coating itself is less robust, only that it is more sensitive to temperature extremes. Sashco's low-VOC formula Transformation stain has proven itself to out-perform most stains on the market – higher and lower VOC types.

What have the new VOC regulations done? They have encouraged manufacturers like Sashco to invest in more research and led them to develop new formulas that perform just as well as the old but with lower VOC levels. And Sashco is up to the task! All of our products meet or exceed existing and proposed VOC laws in all 50 states and Canada, while performance of our products has remained superior to most.

The EPA sets VOC regulations nation-wide; however, individual states can set more stringent restrictions.

Below are VOC limits for Waterproof Wood Stains (including all of Sashco's pigmented stains).

Current EPA National Limit	600 g/L
Proposed EPA National Limits effective 1/1/2011	250 g/L

State Specific Regulations:

If a state is not listed, it defaults to the EPA National Limits

California (most Air Quality Management Districts)	250 g/L
CA South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD)**	100 g/L
<i>**Cannot sell Transformation here.</i>	

Ozone Transportation Commission (OTC) states:	250 g/L
Connecticut	New Jersey
Delaware	New York
The District of Columbia	Pennsylvania
Maine	Rhode Island
Maryland	Vermont
Massachusetts	Virginia (selected counties)
New Hampshire	

Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LMADC) states:	250 g/L
Illinois	Ohio
Indiana	Wisconsin
Michigan	

Canada (effective 1/1/2010)	250 g/L
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