



# HSIA

halogenated  
solvents  
industry  
alliance, inc.

February 28, 2012

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## **HSIA IS CONCERNED ABOUT RECENT REPORTS OF DEATHS ASSOCIATED WITH INAPPROPRIATE USE OF METHYLENE CHLORIDE BY BATHTUB REFINISHERS**

HSIA supports the safe and effective use of chlorinated solvents such as methylene chloride and recommends that all users of methylene chloride take appropriate safety precautions. Household products containing methylene chloride should be used in accordance with manufacturers' labels. Cautionary labeling for such products that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act has been approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission and is reproduced below.\*

The following actions are strongly recommended:

- Always wear protective gloves, protective clothing and eye and face protection to avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing;
- Do not breathe mist, vapors or spray;
- Ventilate closed spaces before entering them and make sure that the solvent vapor concentrations do not exceed limits established by OSHA;
- Do not eat, drink or smoke when using the product;
- Always consult the manufacturers safety data sheet and label instructions before using and do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood;
- Use respiratory protection when vapor concentrations may exceed OSHA limits; pay particular attention to working in a closed environment;
- Store unused product in a cool, dry and well ventilated area;
- Properly dispose of any unused material and do not release the material into drains, water or groundwater;

- Properly train personnel in the safe handling, storage and disposal of methylene chloride and the appropriate safety procedures; and
  - Do not use in areas where there is likely to be inadequate ventilation (e.g., bathrooms, basements, any confined areas, etc.).
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\*The following labeling was approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission in its Statement of Interpretation and Enforcement Policy, 52 Federal Register 34698 (September 14, 1987)

“Front Panel

CAUTION: Vapor Harmful, Read Other Cautions  
and HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION on Back Panel

(Or equivalent language)

Back Panel

Contains methylene chloride, which has been shown to  
cause cancer in certain laboratory animals. Risk to your  
health depends on level and duration of exposure.

(Or equivalent language)

(The back panel labeling given above would be placed separately from use precaution information such as the following.)

Use this product outdoors, if possible. If you must use it  
indoors, open all windows and doors or use other means to ensure  
fresh air movement during application and drying. If properly used,  
a respirator may offer additional protection. Obtain professional advice  
before using. A dust mask does not provide protection against vapors. Do  
not use in basement or other unventilated area.

Open container carefully and close after each use. Clean up rags, papers and waste promptly. Allow solvent to evaporate, then dispose of in metal containers.

(Or equivalent language suitable for the particular product involved)”