

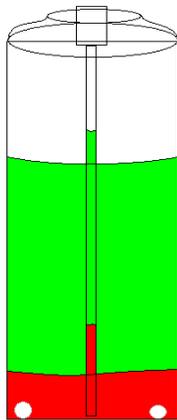
# Aerosol Products

## **Important:** Clear the Tube Before Using an Aerosol

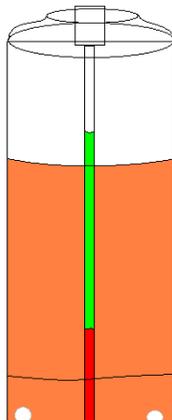
Clearing the tube of an aerosol can is important any time the aerosol has sat for any amount of time, especially before the first use.

This is a simple procedure that involves properly agitating the can (shaking for one full minute) and then spraying it for approximately 3 seconds in a safe direction but not onto the part that is going to be sprayed. This allows the material that remains in the dip tube that cannot be agitated to be evacuated and not dispensed on the job part.

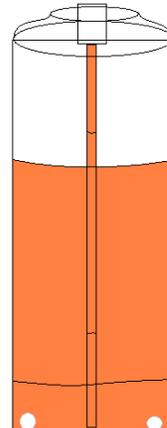
When an aerosol can is filled the agitator balls are first inserted and then the can is filled with paint (stain, glaze, lacquer, etc.). The next step is the insertion of the valve which is secured to the can by crimping of the valve ring. After the valve is secured propellant is added to the can through the valve. The propellant pressurizes the can. This pressure immediately forces a small amount of paint into the dip tube of the valve. This paint in the tube settles the same as the paint in the can. Pigments, dyes and sheen control agents, which provide color and sheen to the paint, separate from the solvents and propellant in the can. When the can is agitated by shaking, the agitator balls help mix the pigments and dyes with the solvents. This agitation, however, has little effect on paint in the tube, thus it needs to be evacuated before applying the paint to the substrate and repair.



Before Shaking



After Shaking



After Shaking & Clearing Tube

## **The Importance of Clearing the Tube After Using an Aerosol**

It is equally important to clear the tube after each use to help prevent clogging and spitting in the future, especially for aerosols that contain pigment or flatting paste.

To clear the tube, turn the aerosol can upside down and spray in a safe direction depressing the spray head until the liquid is no longer dispensed (only air). Then use a cloth to wipe away any liquid left on the orifice of the spray head. This procedure clears the nozzle and the spray head so the contents of the can won't clog them.

After the can sits for several days, some of the contents will re-enter the dip tube. Therefore, use the procedure above to assure that the unmixed contents of the tube aren't sprayed on your project.

