Adjusting to Conditions

Standard Conditions Rule

Temperature
70 degrees Fahrenheit
Relative Humidity
50 %
Air Flow
Adequate to quickly and continuously remove all overspray during the application and curing process.

These are the basic starting points for all paint manufactures. When they produce their product information bullitions, all there dry times and pot lifes are based off of these numbers. Any time that we change on of these it can affect our paint job.

Temperature
Temperature is the most common adjustment to be made. We first start by making an adjustment to our solvent. Since we originally bought solvent for 70 degrees and it is now 85 degrees. See our 15 degree rule section. We need to go up a level, please take a look at our solvents and reducers section. If we do not, we will probably have an orange peel problem. If the temp goes down, we need to make a change as well or the paint finsh will start to run and sag. If we do not have the right solvent, then we may try to adjust our spray technique (speed up or slow down) in order to make paint flow out right. THIS IS WRONG. If we speed up, the paint will not flow right and we may end up with dry spots, poor overlaps and streaking. If we slow down, we may end up with runs and sag in our attempt ot wet out the paint a little more. Remember, if we are changing solvents in our paint, we need to change the casalyst in our clear as well. Most clears are mixed only with a catalyst or hardner, therefore we need to change to a slower or faster hardner.

Relative Humidity
This affects the evaporation rate of the solvent. If the humidity levels are too high, you will get little or no evaporation of the sovents. This can cause blushing, dieback, or loss of gloss. We should not paint until the humidity goes down. If the humidity is too low (which doesn't happen for most of the country very often), the evaportion rate will be very quick and we need to slow it down by changing solvents and or catalysts.

Air Flow
We need to have adequete air flow in order to remove all the sovents in a timely manner. As new air comes into our painting area, it gets saturated with solvents and must be evacuated. If, not we will have excessive build up of solvents in the paint film and this can lead to runs and sags as well as solvent popping. If the top layers of the paint skin over then you will trap excessive solvent that will continue to try to find a way to get out. You can tell if you do not have enough air flow if you have applied you first coats and after the proper flash time between coats, the paint is still wet and not yet tacky. If you touch the paint and continue to pull a string of paint from you finger. Then you need more air flow.