



Teflon®

Nonstick & Industrial Coatings

Teflon® Coating Replaces Polishing or Galvanizing On Spray Paint Components, Cuts Costs

Prices for polishing aluminum were going up. Sources for getting the job done were drying up. That's when Federal Equipment, a leading spray painting manufacturer, decided to check out DuPont *Teflon*® coatings for spray gun cups and pressure pot containers, instead of polishing the component parts.

The application was a tough test for *Teflon*®. The aluminum vessels must maintain integrity under high pressure during spray painting applications. Federal Equipment had a concern that the high temperature curing required with *Teflon*® would soften the aluminum. A soft aluminum would not pass the pressure burst test for the paint vessels.

DuPont formulated a special *Teflon*® resin that would provide the essential nonstick and chemical resistance, but not soften or anneal the aluminum through a very high temperature cure.

"We had evaluated *Teflon*® in the past," said Michael Cross, president of Federal Equipment, "but we thought our company was too small to work with DuPont. On the contrary, DuPont put us in touch with Orion Industries, a licensed DuPont applicator located in Chicago. Between Orion and DuPont, we had the benefit of a coating that could eliminate the polishing on our paint vessels."

"When we introduced the *Teflon*® products at the Chicago Hardware Show, we were amazed at the positive customer response," explained Cross. "Our customers much preferred the benefits of *Teflon*®. The polished equipment only looked good when the product was on the shelves, never after it had been used. And, we could actually have the inside *and* the outside of the containers coated with *Teflon*® for less than the cost of polishing only the outside," Cross said.

After the success of its hand-held components, Federal Equipment expanded its use of *Teflon*® for 2- and 5-gallon steel pressure containers. Most of those containers previously required galvanizing or powder coating. By coating their entire product line, the cost of *Teflon*® actually dropped. Federal Equipment could then provide customers with a more serviceable nonstick, chemically-resistant industrial paint container for less than the cost of galvanizing or powder coating.

Federal Equipment is now the leading U.S. exporter of spray guns to Hong Kong, Indochina, and Thailand. The company has seen such success with the change to *Teflon*® coating on the spray gun cups and pressure pot containers that it is now evaluating it for hand-held zinc and aluminum spray guns. "We were really surprised to find that *Teflon*® will even adhere to zinc castings. And, again, we saved all the costs of polishing and removing every cosmetic flaw," explained Cross. "We don't have to have a perfectly smooth surface because *Teflon*® makes the surface uniform and functional," said Cross.

Cross is very pleased that his company gave *Teflon*® another look. He would encourage product design-



ers, engineers, and purchasing managers to do the same. As the cost of plating, galvanizing, and polishing becomes more expensive, the cost of applying *Teflon*[®] has dropped.

Coating prototypes and requesting quotes is easier than ever through the DuPont network of licensed applicators. Simply call (800) 441-7515 or fax (302) 366-8602. For more information on Federal Equipment spray gun cups and pressure pot containers coated with DuPont *Teflon*[®], call (708) 836-0806 or fax (800) 258-2533.



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