

SOY-BASED PAINT STRIPPER REDUCES HEALTH RISKS



When a U.S. Navy submarine comes to Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (PNS) to be renovated and updated, it gets a total overhaul inside and out right down to the smallest detail. “Doors and the like can be taken off the ship and brought into our shops, but many other surfaces cannot, so we need a stripper that we can use safely within confined areas that won’t contaminate the sub,” says Foreman of Paint Shop 71 Bob Moors.

“We have to use chemical strippers rather than mechanical methods, such as sanding, because of the dust they produce. The internal environment of a sub – especially instrumentation – is extremely sensitive to dust particles that result from sanding and scraping so a chemical stripper is extremely important,” Moors says.

“In the past we had no choice but to use a harsher methylene chloride product. It worked well but was classified as a Volatile Hazardous Air Pollutant which means it’s bad for the environment. It also required extensive controls (for example: ventilation and respirators) to prevent worker exposure,” he explains. “The major advantage of the soy-based stripper is that it can be used almost any place on the ship because the health risks are reduced and it’s environmentally friendly.”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SOYBIOBASED.ORG

Because of the potential for biobased products to create new markets for soybeans, U.S. soybean farmers have invested millions of dollars to research, test and promote biobased products. Much of this work was done through the United Soybean Board, which is composed of 73 U.S. soybean farmers appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to invest soybean checkoff funds. As stipulated in the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act, USDA's Agricultural Marketing Services has

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