



## Agitation - Step by step

---

Simply put, Agitation is movement. Heavier materials in coatings tend to settle at the bottom of containers. Agitation blends them together into one uniformly dispersed material. This “movement” helps to ensure consistent finishing results. There are many different methods for agitation. The most common one is done by hand, with a clean stir stick.

### Stir Stick

**Step 1** - Choose a stick that is the proper size, it should be at least one inch wide.

**Step 2** - Stir the material, remember to slightly raise and lower the stick. This will help draw the heavier settled material up and through the coating. Stirring should continue for at least five minutes, until you can feel that all of the settlement has been lifted off the bottom.

### To use mixing paddles that are powered by an air gun.

**Step 1** - Make sure that the container is sitting on the floor or a stable surface.

**Step 2** - Insert the paddles into the mixture.

**Step 3** - SLOWLY begin to spin the paddles. Building to enough speed to ensure a good blend, but not so much that the material is spilled.

### Automatic Shaker

Automated shakers are another method for agitation, although not recommended for Waterborne coatings due to air entrapment. These machines are very efficient. Even so, it's a good practice to confirm that there is no remaining settlement on the bottom of the can by removing the lid and feeling the bottom of the can with a stir stick.

Whatever method you use, remember that agitation is an on-going process. Even during application your materials should still be regularly agitated.

Agitation is key to finish consistency. So remember, agitate first, agitate thoroughly and agitate often.

- Use air or Ex rated stir equipment.
- Always keep guard in place during actual use.
- Always refer to your (MSDS) Material Safety Data Sheet for proper (PPE) Personal Protective Equipment.

