

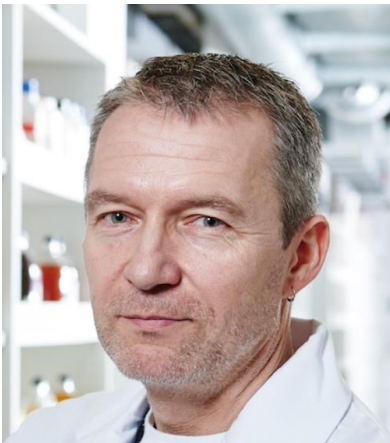
## Press Release



# Reducing microorganisms in industrial paint shops

## PCH business unit

**Despite the utmost cleanliness, industrial paint shops cannot completely prevent microbial infestation from forming in some areas of their plants. "However, a lot can be done to keep it as low as possible," reports Uwe Hilsenbek, Head of R&D and Application Technology at Zeller Gmelin.**



In general, consistent operation of the system and the shortest possible downtimes make it more difficult for bacteria to colonise. The expert recommends paying particular attention to the areas where microorganisms can grow. These include, for example, the circulating water, the walls of the system tanks, the paint sludge as well as the exhaust and recirculation units including the associated pipes. Among his tips for preventing possible colonisation in advance is the avoidance of dead pipes. It is better for industrial paintshops to dismantle unused pipes. In the case of water and sludge tanks, it is recommended that they can be completely emptied. If they are not being used, they should ideally be completely empty and dry. In the case of exhaust air ducts, appropriate dimensions and droplet separators help to prevent microbial infestation.

"Sediments are the ideal breeding ground for bacteria," Hilsenbek explains. He points out that round tanks with agitators are better than square tanks because there are no corners where sludge can collect. When wet washing overspray, he recommends combining paint coagulation with appropriate flotation and, if possible, using coagulation media with metal salts, because: the higher the salt content, the lower the bacterial growth. Another measure can be the controlled and regular use of biocides.

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