

# TIP SHEET: THE FUNDAMENTALS

## Storage and handling safety

**Problem.** A powder coating applicator opened a container of powder stored in his shop to find a bunch of chunks and lumps. The coater also had moisture problems with the powder he had stored in his hopper.

**Solution.** Powder coatings charging properties are the best when they are free-flowing and moisture-free. Storage temperatures should be kept below 75°F and 50 percent relative humidity. If storage room temperature is lower than the application area, powder coatings, which retain moisture, should be acclimated in unopened containers before adding them into the spray hopper. Unused powder should be stored in closed containers to prevent contamination.

Powder should not be stored in hoppers for long periods of time. If moisture condensation occurs, fluidize powder to dry out or replace moisture-laden powder with new powder. **PC**

*Thanks to DuPont Powder Coatings USA, Houston, Tex.; 713/939-4000 [www.dupontpowder.com].*