

	<b>MRAT 059</b>	<b>Plastics polishers</b>	<b>Applicable to:</b> Acrylics	<b>See also:</b> 040 055 060
<b>Process(es) covered:</b>		Production of a high-quality surface finish using polishing compounds and a power-driven mop. Final finishing by hand using liquid polish and cloth.		

### Control Measures

- Wear eye protection. Tie back long hair, remove or cover jewellery and cover loose clothing covered with a secure apron or overall.
- Provide appropriate instruction and practice to control the small risk from flying workpieces.
- Use guards to reduce the risk of injury when the assessment shows them to be practicable. The whole of the exposed spindle on both sides of the polishing mop should always be guarded, e.g., by the use of adjustable telescopic guards.
- Consider the risk of HAVS

### Immediate Remedial Measures:

A particle could be in the eye	Tell the casualty not to rub the eye, sit him/her down facing the light with the head leaning back. Stand behind the casualty to look for the particle in the eye. If it is over the iris or pupil, DO NOT ATTEMPT TO MOVE IT. Tell the casualty to hold a gauze pad over the eye and close the other one. Send for an ambulance to take the casualty to hospital.  If the particle is visible over the white of the eye, the corner of a moistened handkerchief can be used to remove it. Call 111 and seek medical attention.
Vapour from polish inhaled	Move casualty to fresh air to rest; give nothing by mouth. Call 111 and seek medical attention.
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Polish is in the eyes	Irrigate immediately with water for at least 20 minutes, holding eyelids apart. Call 111 and seek medical attention.
Liquid polish comes into contact with skin	Wash with soap and water.
Liquid polish is spilt in workshop	Contain the spill with sand, earth or any suitable absorbent. Transfer to a container for disposal.  Do not allow to enter drains.
Liquid polish is swallowed	DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. Call 111 and seek medical attention.

<b>Storage</b>	Liquid 'Perspex polish' should be stored in dry conditions at moderate temperatures and in containers kept tightly closed.
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<b>Disposal</b>	
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## Risk Assessment

### Hazards:

Flying workpiece	Workpieces can be thrown violently if not held correctly or if the machine starts unexpectedly.
Physical injury	Human contact with moving or rotating parts can cause cuts or abrasions and particles from the polishing process can enter the eye.
Entanglement	Long hair, dangling jewellery or loose clothing can become entangled with rotating parts, dragging the user onto them.
Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome	Use of vibrating powered equipment can lead to HAVS

### Risks:

Flying workpiece	Workpieces are usually held in the hand for polishing, allowing the pressure on the mop or wheel to be released quickly. This risk is small.
User injury	If guards are positioned to enclose those moving or rotating parts that are not being used then the risk is reduced but in some applications this is difficult. This risk must be re-assessed for each application.
Entanglement	Entanglement is likely to occur if rotating spindle ends are exposed.
HAVS	Use a polisher with a low vibration magnitude or limit the time that the equipment is used.

### Further Information:

- Pedestal polishers typically have a vibration magnitude of 8. Hand held polishers have a vibration magnitude of 3.