

Solvents differ in what they can dissolve, odor and flammability. It is important that the correct solvent be used to thin or clean up a coating.

**All solvents must be used with proper safety precautions**

1. Mineral Spirits: A mixture of Aliphatic Hydrocarbons; Similar to Lighter Fluid and Charcoal Lighter.
  - Used for most oil based and alkyd paints, primers and varnishes
  - “Paint Thinner” may be mostly or all mineral spirits
  - Used to clean up brushes, rollers, spray equipment and spills
  - Not effective for cleaning up dried paint on brushes, etc.
2. Odorless Mineral Spirits: Mineral Spirits processed to have minimal levels of aromatic and sulfur-containing compounds.
  - A reduced odor version of mineral spirits
  - Same ventilation and other safety precautions as with mineral spirits
  - May be more expensive than regular mineral spirits
3. VM&P Naphtha
  - Similar to mineral spirits; used by professional painters as paint thinner
  - Somewhat faster drying than mineral spirits
4. Lacquer Thinner: Blend of different solvent types
  - Used specifically for pigmented and clear lacquers, some wood fillers, etc., that specifically specify the use of lacquer thinner
  - Lacquer Thinner is extremely flammable; can soften some plastics and paints
5. Alcohol: “Denatured Alcohol”
  - “Denatured” means the alcohol has been treated to make it undrinkable
  - Used with shellac and shellac-based primers
  - Do not substitute isopropyl alcohol (rubbing alcohol) or methanol (wood alcohol)
6. Xylene (Xylol) and Toluene (Toluol): Aromatic Solvents
  - Strong solvents used in some fast dry enamels, in some lacquers and lacquer thinners. May also be in some paint removers.
  - Toluene is somewhat faster drying than xylene
  - Should be used only in coatings specifically recommended

For further information on thinning of paints and coatings, contact your Diamond Vogel® representative or visit the Diamond Vogel® web site at [www.diamondvogel.com](http://www.diamondvogel.com).