

Clean, green painting machine



When the BLS team has a job that will take several days, a parked trailer containing their materials is kept on site to save fuel and prevent pollution.

When the team at **BLS Painting Inc.** decided they were going to go "completely green" two years ago, **Erick Luna**, vice president, said they did it in small steps.

"We started here in the office first. We can't expect our guys to be green if we can't be green here in the office, so we started making changes."

Luna says that reducing the number of things they print, recycling and even using recycled paper for their documents were their first moves. From there, he says they started making changes *outside* the office. Their next move: using greener materials.

"Out in the field, we use a lot of water-based products and low- or zero-VOC products. All of these things are a little more costly, but they have become standards for us."

Luna says that because of the strong fumes released from the chemicals a painter works with, he or she can walk

away from a job feeling a bit intoxicated. Luna says, "Going green allows for the team to go home without the headaches they used to get."

The company's next green move was the biggest: using greener vehicles.

"We used to have a lot of old vans, but we bought new vans, hired on a mechanic and properly maintain the vans on site."

Luna says the company got its start in 1995 when his father, **Benito Luna**, president, opted to branch off on his own. Now, nearly 15 years later, Luna is excited about the changes they've made within the company.

"Paint is a strong product, especially when you are constantly exposed to it. But we are trying to make things better not only our business and for the Earth, but also for our guys."

BLS Painting Inc. specializes in interior and exterior paint projects for new construction, as well as remodels. -va