

FUME EXTRACTION AND LEAD-FREE SOLDERING

Highly active fluxes will tend not only to react with the tip material - increasing corrosion and reducing tip life - but also emanate more irritants. This is true whether or not these fluxes are of the 'no clean' variety. Hakko recommends that all soldering be done with adequate ventilation, and that fume extraction equipment be used whenever possible.

This, by the way, is as good a place as any to mention that there is not, and never has been, a need to extract 'lead fumes' from the air whilst soldering. The smoke is a byproduct of partial combustion of the soldering flux. No more. No less. Lead does not vaporize at soldering temperatures.