Paint Sprayer Cheat Sheet

The tip chart, the masking rule and the index-card technique — tape it inside the garage cabinet.
From vitaldwelling.com — "How to Use a Paint Sprayer (Without Painting Everything Else)".

1 — THE FIVE SPRAYERS, SIDE BY SIDE

	MAXPRAY M1 ★	GRACO X5	FLEXIO 595	HOMERIGHT SF	INOKRAFT HVLP
Role	Best beginner airless	Best step-up airless	Best versatile HVLP	Best budget HVLP	Best compact HVLP
Price	Check product page	~$310–$370	Check product page	~$60 class	Check product page
Type	Airless, stand	Airless, stand	HVLP, handheld	HVLP, handheld	HVLP, handheld
Best at	Rooms, fences, siding	Multi-room / exterior	Walls + cabinets	Furniture, cabinets	Small jobs, trim
Thinning	No (latex)	No	Mostly no (iSpray)	Often, thick latex	Often, thick latex
Paint supply	Bucket (suction)	1 or 5 gal bucket	1.5 qt cup	40 oz cup	1,200 ml cup
Reach	25 ft hose	25 ft incl., to 75 ft	In hand	In hand	In hand
Overspray	High (airless)	High (airless)	Lower (HVLP)	Lower (HVLP)	Lower (HVLP)
Warranty	1 yr → 2 yr by email	1 yr	1 yr	Check listing	Check listing

2 — TIP SIZES (first digit × 2 = fan width · last two = orifice)

TIP	FAN	USE IT FOR
411 / 413	8 in fan	Stains, thin sealers, detail work
515	10 in fan	Latex on walls and ceilings — the default wall tip (ships with the M1 and the X5)
517	10 in fan	Primers and thicker latex
519	10 in fan	Block fillers, very heavy coatings — check your sprayer's max tip size first

3 — MASK FIRST · SPRAY SIMPLE · CLEAN THE SAME DAY

CARD	THE RULES
MASKING	Furniture out or sealed · floors in canvas, plastic taped at the wall line · tape + paper on trim, windows, outlets · cars OUT of the driveway (overspray rides a breeze) · respirator + goggles on you.
TECHNIQUE	12 in for airless, 6–8 in for HVLP, constant and perpendicular · move before you trigger, release before you stop · overlap every pass 50% · pressure at 'no tails, no more' · two thin coats, can's recoat window between them · back-roll textured/porous walls.
SETUP	Stir, then strain the paint ($2 strainer = anti-clog insurance) · thin HVLP 5–10% with water only if the viscosity cup says so · prime till no spitting · test on cardboard every time.
CLEANUP	Same day, 10–20 min: relieve pressure · flush water (latex) or solvent (oil) till clear · clean tip, gun filter and inlet · storage fluid if it sits more than a few days. More sprayers die of dried paint than of wear.