

# Wash paint equipment the wise way



Resene has long recommended the 'two container' system for cleaning decorating tools and accessories as it is easy to do and minimises water and solvent use and continues to do so today. This system is quick, simple and ideal for most projects with no investment other than a couple of large containers. For those that prefer to have a wash unit, Resene has worked with RA Industries of Australia to bring their Reclaimer system to our customers.

Resene  
**WashWISE**

RA Industries design and manufacture the Reclaimer system and they have been sold and used successfully in Australia for many years. All waste suspended in water can be treated in the system - printer's inks, cement effluent, tiler's, painter's, renderer's and artist's washout can all go into the Reclaimer system.

The **Resene WashWise Reclaimer** is portable, fast and easy to use with quick separation, requiring only a low quantity of treatment chemicals reducing the materials needed to separate the water and paint, and the water phase can be used as the primary wash for application equipment and returned to the unit minimising water consumption.

The grey water from a Reclaimer unit after 1 hour of settling will pass through a 5 micron filter. After 12 hours settlement it will pass through a 0.5 micron carbon filter. The technology is based on the same flocculation techniques used in paint factories that require stages of additives and agitation. All that is needed for ongoing use is **Resene WashWise Reclaimate**.

Each **Resene WashWise Reclaimer** is manufactured from industrial grade fibreglass and coated on the inside with chemical resistant gel coat. This provides a durable long-term solution that can stand up to the rigours of the weather.

The high quality effluent produced by this system can be reused saving massive amounts of potable water. Field-testing completed by RA Industries shows that 95% of the original water can be saved each treatment and reused. If the system is in permanent use in a static situation the holding tank can be regularly topped up and polished to extend water quality and water savings.

The Reclaimer system has been thoroughly tested and confirmed for use by The Queensland Government and separately Sydney Water in conjunction with the Master Painters Association of NSW.

With the **Resene WashWise Reclaimer** taking care of all waterborne paint wash waste, the Resene 'two container' system can be used to take care of the solventborne wash.

For more information on the Resene WashWise Reclaimer system, contact your Resene representative.

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the paint the professionals use

## How to clean brushes and rollers without polluting the environment

### An easy to use cleaning system

This system is based on the use of two containers in which brushes, roller sleeves and other equipment are first washed and then rinsed. By rotating the containers the solids in the paint are separated from the liquid making it easier to dispose of each component.

This system will work well for both waterborne and solventborne (oil or alkyd) paints. For solventborne paints use mineral turpentine and any other paint solvent recommended by your local Resene ColorShop or Reseller.

#### Follow these steps:

In the case of waterborne paints:

- At the end of the job wipe or squeeze excess paint onto an absorbent material, such as old rags, shredded newspapers or cardboard boxes.
- Allow to dry and dispose of with household waste.
- Wash brushes, rollers and other equipment with water in a large pail.
- The most effective method is to use a roller spinner.
- Transfer the washed equipment to a second container filled with clean water for a final rinse.
- Place lids on the containers or cover in some other secure manner and allow to stand overnight.

By morning the paint solids in the first container will have settled down to the bottom of the container. The clear water from this container may now be poured onto the garden or any grassed or open area away from streams, rivers or lakes, where it can be absorbed into the ground.

#### Now to dispose of the paint solids at the bottom of the first container.

Scrape the paint solids out onto absorbent material, such as old rags, shredded newspapers or cardboard boxes. Allow to dry, then place in a plastic bag and dispose of with the household rubbish or take directly to the nearest council tip.

#### The second container now can be used as the first wash. Use this rotation system until the job is completed.

In the case of solventborne paints, follow the same procedures as for waterborne paints but with these exceptions:

- Use solvents to wash equipment.
- Allow the first container to stand at least 24 hours as it will take this long for the paint solids to settle.
- Do not pour the clear solvent onto the ground - use it to top up the second container or decant and keep for future use.
- Use the least amount of solvent.

#### Caution

Never allow waste water or chemical solvents from washed paint equipment to enter household or storm water drains or sewers. The waste may find its way into natural waterways where it can reduce oxygen levels and threaten the survival of fish and other aquatic organisms.

#### Planning ahead

It's a good idea to keep a container of 'dirty turps' on hand for cleaning purposes. Kept in the original container and in a safe place, you will be able to reuse the solvent time and time again. Remember not to shake it up as this will disturb the paint solids, which will have settled to the bottom of the container.

#### Tips for dealing with spills

If paint is accidentally spilt, clean it up as best as you can with a cloth or newspaper. Then treat with Resene Emulsifiable Solvent Cleaner and rinse with water. By treating the spilt paint with Resene Emulsifiable Solvent Cleaner before washing down you will save solvent and give yourself less work to do.

#### When moving from one worksite to another

A plastic pail with a tight fitting lid is ideal for the short term storage and transport of brushes and roller sleeves. Fill this pail about halfway with water so that brushes etc are covered. This will save you from having to clean brushes and rollers whenever work is interrupted.

Wrapping a paintbrush in cling wrap will prevent the paint drying on the brush while you take a lunch break. Similarly put your roller into a plastic bag and tape it around the handle or submerge the roller in the paint in your roller tray to keep the paint moist during your break.



**Allow solids to settle**



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