

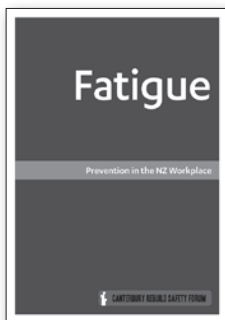
“ If there is one thing we’ve learned over all these years of selling paint it’s that everyone has their own favourite tricks and methods to get the job done. The reality is though that there are usually a few options and if you ask enough people you’ll get a range of suggestions. Homeowners often get caught in this trap – they ask a huge number of people and end up with conflicting suggestions... it’s not that any are wrong, simply that the people they asked had different preferences. It’s a handy thing to bear in mind when working with clients – make sure you answer their questions and explain why you are making the recommendation you are – that way when they compare your advice to someone else’s later, it’s more likely that they will believe in the information you have given them because they truly understand it... ”



Beating fatigue

The ACC have created a ‘Beat Fatigue’ campaign.

“Fatigue is a serious issue in the construction industry. It increases the chance of injuries occurring and reduces performance and productivity. Our aim with this promotion is to raise awareness of fatigue and how to avoid it. It’s as simple as eating properly, taking rest breaks, and getting a good night’s sleep and keeping hydrated throughout the day,” says ACC Injury Prevention Consultant, Mike Flanagan.



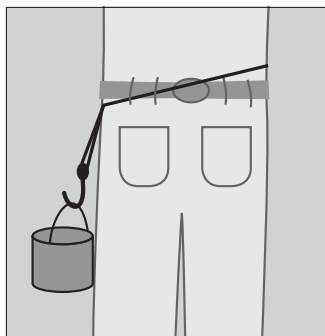
“The Fatigue Guide is a great resource for contractors and subbies. It offers good practical advice and information on managing fatigue, it outlines employer and employee responsibilities around managing fatigue, it has checklists and tool box talks to help everyone address and reduce the risk of fatigue.”

Email us at update@resene.co.nz and we’ll send a copy of the Fatigue guide to you.

Handy pot holder

Sometimes feel like it would be handy to be an octopus and have eight arms to juggle everything? Thanks to Bill Coupland we have a handy idea to help you free up your arms:

“For a number of years I have been using this idea to carry a paint pot without holding it. I use a strap that is adjustable and a tie down hook, placed through the pocket hole in my overalls and around my waist. This idea leaves one hand free to hold on while painting. If placed on outside of overalls it will slip down.”



Wintergrade for winter



Paint is very much like a human – it likes warm weather – not too hot and not too cold. With the colder temperatures around you may find you need to switch to Resene Wintergrade products to help keep your project moving along. The Resene Wintergrade paint range includes Resene Wintergrade Lumbersider, Resene Wintergrade Sonyx 101, Resene Wintergrade Hi-Glo, Resene Wintergrade X-200, Resene Wintergrade Quick Dry, Resene Wintergrade Roof Primer (made to order) and Resene Wintergrade Summit Roof (made to order).

The extra mile

Often it’s the little things that people notice and these can have more effect on your reputation than years of advertising might, which Steven Martin has found...

“A few years ago one of my clients passed on his tip to me for cleaning paint off door hinges, window catches and screws etc. Take one pot, fill with water and put in baking soda, bring to the boil with your hinges in it.

I bought a large container of baking soda of 400gms. I have been putting in about a third of the container. I did about 36 hinges at a time this way. I kept the pot simmering for at least an hour. I then let the water cool down and cleaned any paint off the fittings with a green pad. Then I rinsed all the fittings and dried them. Then I sprayed them with CRC, wiping off with a cloth the excess spray, especially for the older fittings. They go back on looking new.

I’ve been doing this for each house I’ve been to, really surprising the clients. Going the extra mile is well worth it. It shows you care about their home.”



Double duty

"If you have a contract to undertake and it is of a grand scale outside and has to be done during winter you may want to consider being a volunteer firefighter. The benefits can be rather handy!!

The good 'ol attitude of 'she'll be right' didn't quite pan out for us. Just as the final square metre of Resitex was sprayed the heavens opened up! Luckily the local volunteer fire brigade was just down the road of which I was a member. With a few desperate pleas all ruined work was hosed off, saving the job from being a complete mess!"

Thanks to Michael.



Using step ladders safely

Courtesy of Master Painters fact sheet 13

Step ladders are very often both a central part of a paint job, but also a key danger area. Here are some tips on how to minimise the likelihood of a ladder-related accident:

Inspect the ladder:

- Take time to check the condition of the ladder both before and after use.
- Check that the ladder is sufficiently robust to support your weight.
- Make sure the steps are free of oil, wet paint, mud, or any other potentially slippery substance

Erecting the ladder:

- Clear the area around the ladder from any clutter. Make sure that no electrical cords or wire leads are close.
- If the ladder needs to be in front of a door, consider locking the door to prevent surprise openings.

Ask us anytime online

Need help with a painting project or perhaps you've got a burning paint or colour question and are not sure know who to ask? Ask our Resene experts and they can help you with free advice and information direct to your inbox. We've noticed more and more painters are using the Ask a Colour Expert service to get some colour ideas for their clients – so do feel free to get in touch with us and our colour expert can give you some ideas to share with your clients.

Try out the free Resene Ask a Technical Expert service online.
www.resene.com/techexpert

Or try out the free Resene Ask a Colour Expert service online.
www.resene.com/colourexpert

Or you can call our freephone number for advice over the phone during normal working hours Monday – Friday on 0800 RESENE (737 363) in NZ or 1800 738 383 in Australia.

- If the ladder is in a high-traffic area, draw attention to this fact in the house – a hand-written sign would do.
- Make sure the floor is even and stable. Avoid wet or slippery surfaces.
- Always support the ladder at four points.

Climbing the ladder:

- Wear suitable shoes – no heels, barefoot is not good, nor are most sandals.
- Never climb onto wet or slippery steps, make sure they are dry.
- Never overstretch – do not climb beyond the last three steps of a ladder.
- Keep your shoulders between the rails and don't over-reach – move the ladder instead.
- Always keep 3 point contact with the ladder.
- If your ceilings are high, but your ladder is too small, don't try to over-reach yourself – renting or borrowing a suitable ladder is much safer.
- Don't let your children climb up the ladder: prevent access at the end of the day if you have to, or fold it up after use.
- Be prepared for an unforeseen vertigo attack – don't look down, breathe slowly and steadily, and go back down step by step.

And an added tip from us, keep a cellphone in your pocket – NOT so you can answer calls but so you can call someone if you find you need help.

Get your work seen

If you've painted a project recently that has an interesting use of Resene colours or products, we'd love to hear from you.

We may be able to feature it through one of the Habitat or Resene marketing channels and get you some more exposure for your decorating work. Simply send to us at update@resene.co.nz with details about the project. It's a great way to show off your work without having to fork out money for advertisements.



Catch you next month!

TwoCan, Editor.

