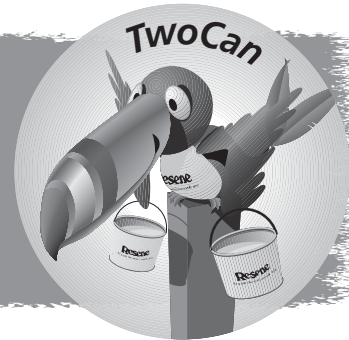


“ The weather forecasts are looking promising, the sun is getting earlier to rise and later to go to bed and the warm clothing is being relegated to the bottom drawer. We're officially in the lots of paint, lots of appointments season, a big blur of events that will be ended by blowing leaves and cold weather in something like six months. And for those stuck working every hour of every day, we hope this issue gives you the excuse to at least take a five minute break with your favourite cuppa and justify it as work related! ”



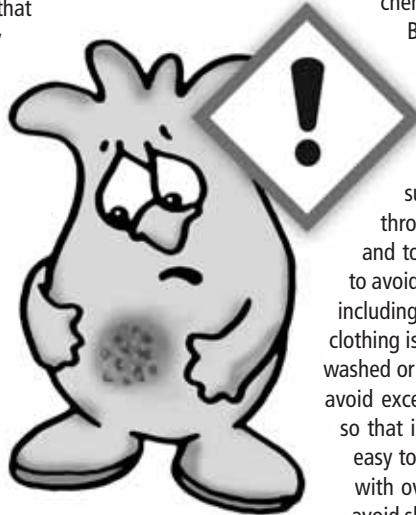
## Scratch that

From time to time we hear of people who become so allergic to something that they have hardly even opened the container and they break out in a rash... or worse. Of course we all kind of figure it will never happen to us, but unfortunately there is no guarantee that just because you are ok today that you won't suddenly have a problem tomorrow. Worst of all, if you do start having a problem with it, your only option may be to change jobs, which when you have a lifetime skill set of painting may not be as easy as it sounds.

Allergic sensitisation, affecting normally the skin or respiratory system, can develop by being exposed to specific substances. While high exposures may make the allergy develop faster, once the allergy is established (often referred to the person being sensitised) even tiny amounts of the substance can set off an allergic reaction. Then what was often a small problem at the start can cause major problems later when the person affected often can't tolerate any exposure to the substance.

Generally occupational skin problems first affect the hands and forearms, which are most likely to have come into contact with specific substances at work, but can spread further. The first signs are generally dry, red and itching skin, which can then become swollen, cracked and blistered. No one substance will affect everyone in the same way – so something that may cause an allergic reaction over time in one person, may not affect others working beside them until years later, if at all. If the person affected has a holiday often the skin problem will improve, and this can be a useful way of narrowing down what is causing the reaction.

Liquids and using water can break down the skin's natural defence barrier, so those working with these are most at risk. As both are things a painter deals with day in and day out, the problem of sensitisation is reasonably common among painters. Extreme temperatures, the sun and other factors can also contribute.



Skin sensitisers are generally either proteins in natural materials or chemicals. Protein reactions tend to be much faster than chemical ones, which tend to develop over time. Skin contact with chemicals can actually cause respiratory allergic symptoms even if the chemical hasn't been inhaled through the mouth or nose. Because of this often slow development, it tends to lull people into a false sense of security.

However, you can minimise the risk... where you can, select less hazardous products for the job to minimise the risk. If you can't eliminate, then make sure you minimise exposure – generally this will be through wearing and using the right protective equipment and tools, such as gloves, barrier creams, long sleeve clothing to avoid exposure of forearms and so on. Protect the whole body, including face and neck and hands and make sure protective clothing is intact (no holes where they shouldn't be!) and regularly washed or replaced to avoid chemical buildup. Keep skin clean but avoid excessive overwashing – instead protect the skin well first so that in most cases it doesn't get dirty and when it does, it is easy to get it clean. Dilute chemicals correctly to avoid contact with overstrength products and take care when using them to avoid skin contact and splashes. If skin contact does occur make sure that the affected area is washed immediately.

If you start to discover skin problems then get yourself in to see a doctor pronto! Remember the most likely first signs are dry, red and itching skin, which may be followed by swollen, cracked and blistered skin.

And if you have a new kid on the block working with you, make sure you pass this info onto them so that everyone keeps safe.

To celebrate the warmer weather we have some handy **FREE testpot sized pots of barrier cream** to give away to keep you safe – just ask your Resene rep for your pot, while stocks last.



## Simply handy

What's the best system for weathered timber? Powdery concrete? Wallboards? The **Resene Professional Development** section on the Resene website has all this information plus much much more to help you in your day to day business.

We've even added a **Project Management project plan** and sign-off certificate that you can download and adjust to suit your needs.

Check it out online at: [http://www.resene.com/professional\\_development.htm](http://www.resene.com/professional_development.htm).

that's handy!

## ✓ Safe stuff

Slapping on paint willy nilly when you are working on museum jobs is a definite no no. In fact, there is even a paint testing process available, called Oddy tests, that determines whether paints can be used in storage and display situations in museums. In an Oddy test, a sample of material is enclosed with a coupon of cleaned metal. Then they simply create high humidity by adding water and turning up the temperature to encourage

corrosion. After 28 days, the degree of corrosion on the metal coupon is used to evaluate whether the material being tested is suitable for use in the display or storage of artefacts containing that metal.

All Resene colours/paints tested at Te Papa in 2008 passed the Oddy test and are considered suitable for use for museum displays. The following Resene colours/paints were applied to glass slides, cured for a fortnight and then tested:

Slide #	Coating	Tone	Colour	Contains tinters
A	Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free	White	Acropolis/Half Tea	B, C, F, L
B	Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free	Mid	Half Cliffhanger	B, C, E
C	Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free	Light	Highland	C, K
D	Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free	Pastel	Brandy Rose	F, K
E	Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free	Deep	Hemlock	C, F, K
F	Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free	Ultra Deep	Madagascar	B, C, E, I
G	Resene SpaceCote Flat	White	Hawkes Blue	E, J
H	Resene SpaceCote Flat	White	Oasis	G, P
I	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Pastel	Brandy Rose	F, K
J	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Light	Highland	C, K
K	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Mid	Eastern Blue	D, E
L	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Deep	Hemlock	C, F, K
M	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Ultra Deep	Paua	E, I, J
N	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Ochre	Himalaya	B, C, K
O	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Green	Dell	C, K
P	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Magenta	Sensual Red	F, H, I
Q	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Red	Havoc	P
R	Resene SpaceCote Flat	Yellow 2	Fireball	G, M

## Dog gone

And if your furry dog pal is working with you, never forget that dogs and paint don't mix... as Marguerite from Town and Country Painters reports...

### Never tie the dog up near paint buckets...

"Once a black labrador called Abby, needed to be tied up for the day... but in our rush we didn't shift all the paint or check to see how far her rope would stretch. We can only imagine how much fun she would have had tipping over the can of SpaceCote... sliding around rolling in it until her fur was covered, not to mention the state of the garage floor. We got home to find no longer a black lab but instead we found a white with shades of grey lab, and that wasn't the worst part... It had dried quite fast in the breezy garage air. It took weeks for all the paint to come off her fur. We have all learnt our lesson and when Abby comes on to any job sites we make sure she isn't left alone with any paint!"



That's all for now –  
catch you next month!

TwoCan, Editor.

