

“ We’re now well into the new year and no doubt most New Year’s resolutions have been well and truly broken by now. Unfortunately the summer weather tends to encourage the taggers also, which just means more work for the rest of us. One way to tackle the graffiti is to coat the surface in an anti-graffiti finish so you can clean off the graffiti without repainting the wall. Traditionally these anti-graffiti coatings have been solvent laden products, but thanks to the Resene tech team we now have a much lower VOC waterborne version to share with you... ”



Graffiti beater

Waterborne paints have taken over the decorative market and now they are starting to make inroads into the protective coatings market too. New **Resene Uracryl GraffitiShield** is a two pack waterborne clear designed to provide graffiti protection. Available in a high gloss finish, once cured, graffiti can be cleaned off the surface

Internationally, graffiti or tagging is the most common form of vandalism. Overseas studies have shown that if you don’t address graffiti, then crime will tend to escalate to more serious levels such as burglary and assault.



Resene Uracryl GraffitiShield is ideal for areas, such as commercial buildings, murals/public works of art, motorway corridors, etc that are prone to graffiti and that would be expensive, time consuming or impractical to have to repaint each time tagging occurred.

For more information see Data Sheet RA58.

And for more information on tackling graffiti see the Resene website, www.resene.com/products/antigrffiti.htm.

WINNER

We ran out of room last issue for our best tip winner, so it gets pride of place this issue. It starts with a story and then you’ll learn the key tip...

He’s a winner

“Many years back in the UK, when I first parted company with my employer to go self employed, something happened soon after I began working for myself which certainly wasn’t funny at the time; though I can look back and laugh now. What happened really highlights the need to keep a clear head when something goes wrong, openly admit to your mistake and above all else have adequate (insurance) cover.

On this particular job I was using a paint that required cellulose thinners (a very strong solvent) for thinning/cleanup. As I was carrying a 10 litre pail of the paint up the customer’s immaculate tarmac drive, I tripped, fell and ‘decorated’ the surface with most of the contents of the tub. In my panic, I rushed and grabbed a large tin of thinners from my van, and doused the affected area in the vain hope of dispersing the paint. It only took a second or two to realise my mistake, but now the damage was done. By the time I’d found a garden hose to



try and wash it off, the tarmac had started to dissolve in front of my eyes! Further attempts with detergent and water proved a waste of time and effort, and I finally gave up, resigning myself to my fate.

Needless to say, when the customers arrived home they weren’t overly impressed with my attempt at modern art, and I could only apologise and try and reassure them that my insurance would cover the damage done. Well, I finished the job, got the drive sorted, and parted company with the customer expecting to never hear from them again. Long story short, not only did I hear from them again, but they became one of my most loyal customers. It turned out that they were impressed with the way I dealt with the situation and were happy not only to put more work my way, but recommend me to others.”

So, there’s Mark’s story... now here’s Mark’s tip:

“When something goes wrong, don’t try and cover it up, even if you can - chances are the customer will spot it sooner or later. Admit to your mistake, sort the problem out - even if it’s at some cost to yourself, and likely you’ll have a customer for life.”

Thanks to Mark Loveday of Mark Loveday Decorating.

Ink – paint it ain't

When a piece of timber is treated with a coloured, transparent stain, the final look is influenced by the colour of the timber itself and the amount of stain applied. Light travels through the stain to the timber and is then reflected back from the timber surface through the stain. Light timbers (such as pine) obviously reflect more light back than dark timbers (such as kwila) and the thicker the layer of stain the more the reflected light is absorbed. Paints work differently by absorbing and reflecting light from their own surface and, once hiding is achieved, further coats do not affect the colour. The colour of painted timber can not match the composite colour of the stained timber.

Many printing inks are transparent and achieve their final colour effect by incorporating the light reflected by the base stock and, just as the colour of the timber affects the stained colour, so does

the colour of the stock affect the perceived ink colour. Reflex Blue applied over kraft paper is a vastly different colour to the same ink applied over white paper. Even with white paper, the colour achieved by the same ink over coated or uncoated stock is very, very different. Just as painted timber can not match the colour of stained timber, nor can opaque paint match the colours of surfaces coated with transparent inks.

To make things more complicated, many ink colours are not transparent but use similar pigmentation to paints. As you would have guessed, these inks can be quite accurately matched by paints.



The message? Simply that choosing paint colours from a printing ink fandeck is absolutely fraught, with the quality of the match depending entirely on the degree of transparency of the ink!

High side

We've all heard stories about painters and their ladders, painters sliding off roofs when trying to clamber over wet paint or dangling off ladders only to find the ladder wasn't quite so securely positioned after all. Ladders in themselves are perfectly harmless – it's what we do with them, or what we think we can do with them that is the problem.

The key thing to remember is that ladders are not designed as working platforms – they should be used to get access to the project or to carry out minor or routine work; not to dangle off for days at a time. If you're not planning to stick to this recommendation, it's time to stand back and figure out another way of tackling the job. Sounds obvious but how often do you get caught into the trap of 'just' using the ladder to do that 'tiny spot up there' only to find that tiny spot has suddenly grown into the whole wall of a house.

Ladders should be checked regularly and any damage or excess wear repaired before use. The key things to look for are:

- Damaged or missing locking bars.
- Bent, twisted, loose, split stiles, steps, braces and/or frame.
- Missing rivets.
- Worn or missing non-slip feet.

There are a multitude of different ladder types so obviously match the ladder to the job at hand... and if you find it isn't right then stop and grab the right ladder rather than putting up with something that doesn't quite suit – you'll save time and minimise the risk of accident.

Having checked that a ladder is needed, the right ladder is selected and the ladder is sound, it's time to set it up. Key things to remember are:

- Set it up on a firm surface and allow an overlap of at least 1 metre above the area you plan to move to.
- Get the ladder angle right – for every measure of four up go one out at the base.
- Secure top and bottom with sandbags, blocks or similar. Make sure locking clips are in place. You should have three contact points at any one time, which allows you one free hand. Get someone to hold the ladder while you secure the top to be on the safe side.
- Don't climb higher than three rungs from the top.
- Protect the ladder from passing foot traffic if it is in a thoroughfare area. Consider taping around the work area or placing cones to divert passing traffic away from the ladder area.



Take care on the job

- Work within the width of the ladder – your belt buckle should stay within the width of the ladder. If not, move the ladder to reach the area.

* **Always keep your cellphone charged up and handy if you are using a ladder when there is no one else around – just in case. And by handy we mean in your pocket or similar so you can reach it if you have an accident. And if you need to make a phone call for any other reason make sure you get off the ladder first.**

In short, a little extra effort up front and you'll not only save yourself time but a dreaded trip or two to A&E.

Of course once you have ascended to a roof or the like, never try walking on wet paint – it may only be a metre or two, you may have gotten away with it before and so on, but wet paint is incredibly slippery and you'll regret the 'quick dash' when you are flying through mid air with litres of paint and a paintbrush following after you... especially when you have to clean it all up. You'll be amazed at just how far a paint bucket can fly and how many things it can drop paint on while it is flying.

And if worse comes to worse and you do fall off a ladder... **Don't panic.** Evaluate the situation as calmly as you can and decide if you're hurt. If you don't think that you've broken any bones, get up slowly. Even if you are mobile, if you have hit your head, go and get yourself checked out as soon as possible. If you believe an injury has occurred that stops you from standing or walking, use your cellphone and call 111 or shout for help.

And if you are one of the lucky ones who manages to fall from a ladder but escape serious injury and harm, then the likely cleanup of spilt paint you will still have to endure before you can put the episode behind you will hopefully remind you to be even more careful next time.



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

TwoCan, Editor.

