

“ The calendar's rolled over to 2013, another fresh new year with new projects, new colours and no doubt new products just waiting for us. Before you get into full swing for the year, it's a good time to make sure you finish off all those annoying little jobs that never seem to get finished – you'll feel much better clearing them off your to do list so you can concentrate on the big projects. This issue we've gathered together some advice and suggestions from other decorators and the EPA... ”



## Homemade waterfall

We were sent this last year as part of our funny decorating stories competition... a good lesson is that if you are using new equipment it may pay to try it out somewhere safe first!

"I have a funny story about the first time I tried to use an airless sprayer... I call it Airless Novice..."

I was trying to grease up the mother in law and told her I would paint her house. Seeing the old villa was white, the windows were white, it went up to a white spouting and down to lawn, I figured I would use an airless sprayer. My father had bought one, done his roof and then my brother had done his, both were a success.

I set it all up and thought I would start around the corner on the house on two concrete Greek urn planters as a practice. After a couple of minutes of no paint coming, with me twiddling the knobs, I went back around the corner to check the machine. There was a horrific sight.

The hose had burst sending the paint 40 feet straight into the air. It was bouncing pretty hard onto the



## Handy hints

Here's some tips and tricks from your fellow decorators that might come in handy for you.

"I look forward to purchasing from our Resene shop and leaving with a black plastic bag or two. These bags are really good for putting the roller into overnight or two! They keep the paint well and truly wet on

eaves of the house as well. By the time I got there it was rolling down the side of the house about 500mm wide like lava.

No sooner had I turned it off and thought "How am I going to fix this?" that I realised that the wind had also taken the paint onto the next door neighbour's house.

Gosh! There were about a 100 drips on the house next door drying fast in the sun. But these weren't just drips they were about 500mm long and some traversed four weatherboards. I chucked the ladder over the fence grabbed the wet cloth and over the next hour it took to get it off I thought to myself "This could have been much worse". In the end it looked like I had never been there.

This was unfortunately not the case with the mother in law's house however. By the time I got back the paint on the wall had dried significantly. Great big sagging festoons of paint adorned the wall that couldn't be budged with scraping. Luckily there were no windows and I figured well at least that bit was well protected. I got there in the end and as far as I know she has never ever noticed the 3D relief sculpture of Niagara Falls down the far side of her house."

the sleeve and it's so easy the next morning to just take the roller out of the bag and keep on rolling on. When we can we put the roller into an old supermarket bag first – this helps to make the black bag last longer. The quality of the bags is exceptional and much appreciated by not only us but Resene customers overall."

Thanks to Peter Plummer.

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>> "This is especially for clients who are property or rental investors. To save files and records and hassles of colour matching, do all interior walls with one colour, such as Resene Pearl Luster. This is for all your rental properties. Ceilings white and doors possibly one colour. Touchups between tenants will be so much easier."

#### Thanks to Winsome Lam.

"Using the same colour but changing from a low sheen to a higher sheen can enhance the look of the room. We do it to wide cornices around rooms and it can really make a nice subtle difference."

#### Thanks to Peter Plummer.

"Use a soft brush end on a telescopic roller pole for cleaning houses. Good for smaller gaps too."

#### Thanks to Leigh Utton.

"How long do you spend cleaning out roller gear trays and pots? How can you store rollers soaked in acrylic paint for days without cleaning them? Easy! Use supermarket grocery bags to line your roller trays and paint pots. Tape the handles of the bag to the underside of the pot as normal. Empty remainder of paint at the end of the painting to stock pot and toss the bag. Less paint in waterways, no mess, 30 seconds for the can. Same for the tray. As for the roller, store it in another bag, no air, nothing dries, clean it when you are ready. Save yourself a heap of time and increase your productivity."

#### Thanks to Greg Fulton.

Plus one from us – with the hot weather about, make sure you keep Resene Hot Weather Additive handy in your van so you can use it as needed to keep your paint flowing well. And if you're finding you're capturing more of the sun's rays than you'd like, ask our staff for a free pot of suntan lotion – available while stocks last.

## A word from the wise

### Part 1

It's always a good plan to take time to step back and make sure you have everything in place and working well. This applies to safety too – getting everything set up right at the start can save a lot of time later. The Environmental Protection Agency has put together this handy article that provides some food for thought as to things you can do to improve the way your business works from a safety, environmental and product efficiency point of view. We've included a few notes from Resene too.

#### Surface coatings and paints

The surface coatings and paint industry falls into two broad sectors:

- Architectural: used to decorate buildings generally by tradespeople or home owners.
- Industrial and protective: used on the exterior of equipment, infrastructure, buildings etc.

Architectural paints are either waterborne such as acrylics and vinyls, or solventborne such as enamels and thinners. Waterborne products are normally of lower risk. Solventborne products are often flammable and the rules around their storage, use, and disposal are more stringent.

Industrial and protective paints take in a much wider range of products and these products will often be toxic, corrosive and/or flammable. There has recently been an increase in the use of waterborne protective products, which although non-flammable, may be toxic or corrosive.

#### Safety regulations

Many of the products handled in the surface coating industry are hazardous, and a high level of training is required to handle them safely. Highly hazardous substances are required to be under the control of an approved handler, a person who has demonstrated knowledge and experience in how to manage the hazards and risks of the substance. Whether an approved handler is required depends on the substance, the quantity and how it is used.

Similarly, locations that hold stocks of flammable paints, surface coatings and solvents in large quantities may require a location test certificate. Manufacturers, importers, suppliers and retailers may potentially all require approved handlers and/or location test certificates. Both approved handler and location test certificates are issued by a test certifier.

Controlled zones and/or hazardous atmosphere zones may need to be established if flammable vapours are present and likely to present an ignition risk. A risk assessment may need to be undertaken to establish

the likelihood of flammable vapours being present and what mitigation measures must be put in place. Fire extinguishers must be present in areas where flammable products are held.

Under the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act (HSNO), requirements are specific to the different people involved in handling the substances. These include:

Manufacturers and importers are required to supply:

- Product labels that describe the hazardous nature of a product and precautions to be taken to reduce exposure. Labels tell people of how to avoid incidents and the actions to take in an emergency.
- A safety data sheet (SDS) that provides information on the hazards of the substance, its chemical and physical properties, and how it should be safely used, stored, transported and disposed of. SDSs also describe emergency procedures, such as what to do in the event of a spill or fire.

Businesses should have:

- An inventory of chemicals and their hazardous properties. Knowing the nature and quantity of chemicals present on a site is the first step to effective management of the hazards, for example, how to store substances safely and what emergency measures must be put in place.
- SDSs available for each substance used in the workplace so that workers have access to the required safety information. (You can access all Resene SDS on our website).
- Staff that are trained to handle substances safely and to deal with chemical spills and fires.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Spill kits.
- Secondary containment (bunding).
- Hazard signage.
- An emergency response plan.

*Article supplied courtesy of the Environmental Protection Authority.*

Part 2 of this article will appear in the next issue of Resene TradeLines.

