

Resene TradeLines

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“ We’ve been so busy in recent months telling you about all the new products we’ve scarcely had room to get in a word edgeways for anything else. So this month we do a bit of a catch up on some handy ladder safety, run through some useful tips from fellow professional decorators and uncover some decorating disaster stories... hopefully somewhere in that lot you’ll get something useful to see you through another busy painting season. If the busy patch hasn’t quite hit, sign yourself up for a free Professionals Wanted listing on the Resene website or grab a Professionals Wanted listing form from your local Resene ColorShop and promote your work for free. ”

Up high

Sometimes a healthy dose of a fear of heights can actually keep you safe. We all joke around about ladder safety and many of us have heard stories of painters sliding off roofs when trying to clamber over wet paint or dangling off ladders, but the reality is that ladders are far more dangerous than they appear... well to be fair, ladders are perfectly safe – trouble is we often don’t use them correctly, which can make them an accident waiting to happen.



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 here and there only to find yourself perched on one for days?

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 make sure you 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.
- 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.

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 extremely 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.

While we are on the theme of useful information, we have some more tips and stories to share from fellow professional decorators. Fingers crossed you find the tips useful and the stories humorous, but if you find the tips laughable and the stories useful don’t blame us - we’re just the messenger!

the Eneser news the professionals use

Tips not slips

First some more general tips...

- **Getting nasty edge curl** when you coat over feathered back old paint? Make sure you prime the edges as you go and this will help minimise the problem – all other things being equal, the longer you leave the feathered edge exposed, the worse the edge curl. You'll find the problem is generally much less pronounced when you are using a solventborne primer than a waterborne one. Our best recommendation for all jobs is to prep and prime/seal same day for best results... then topcoat the next day, then play golf or go fishing the third day!
- **To use a roller spinner inside**, get two pails, cut the bottom out of one and wedge it so it doesn't slide right inside, into the second pail. This makes a good high splashback for the spinning.
- When **masking a feature wall** (red for instance) paint the masking tape with the adjoining wall colour (say cream) – this seems to stop the darker colour bleeding under the tape.

Then some from the experts...

Hole repair from Alwyn Courtenay of Lower Hutt

- How to repair a hole and paint a paperfaced plasterboard wall in one day. Firstly cut the hole in the wall so that it is completely round or square. Cut a taper around the outside so that the outer edge of the wall is larger than the inside edge, around 30 to 45 degrees. Using a second piece of paperfaced plasterboard, cut and taper a matching pattern to the hole you have created in the wall. This must be slightly smaller to allow for bonding plaster. Mark how the pattern must fit in to the wall. Dust all cut edges and apply a slurry of plaster to all cut edges of the hole and the matching pattern, insert and hold for 30 seconds. The dry wallboard will suck the moisture out of the slurry. Allow to set. You can also use a small fan heater to help dry the plaster. Flush off the hole with plaster to give the required finish. When dry, paint the patch and then the whole wall.

There are two reasons to taper the patch. 1: To allow outside pressure to be applied when bonding the patch and 2: The patch will not crack or fall in when knocked from outside the wall.

This has been very successful for me on many occasions.

Run remover from Gary Kean of Wellington

- To easily remove runs from acrylic paint use a sharp linbide scraper at an angle to the direction of the run and lightly plane the bulk of the run height off. Then use an orbital disc (best) or flatbed sander, wet and dry sandpaper or normal sandpaper to level the run out. This method reduces the risk of sanding through to bare wood around the run, avoids disc wastage due to balling of paint and clogging, avoids tearing run off and exposing bare timber – basically just saves time and effort.

Trellis timesaver from Trevor Lusty of Timaru

When painting trellis, use a paint tray to dip your hearth brush into as you will get more coverage and less runs.

Drip saver from Jim Cox of Lower Hutt

- 25 years ago I managed to get a piece of Butynol Rubber Sheeting about four metres long and I soon found out that this made great ground sheet covers for exterior work. Since then I have brought some more. It is expensive but it lasts forever. I am still using the first piece I brought years ago. The advantage is that it lies flat and straight against the wall and does not blow around in the wind like cotton dust covers etc. Also if you are unlucky enough to have a spill of paint it will not soak through as it will with cotton sheets.

And some stories to keep you smiling...

Bright spot from Donna McHugh of Auckland

- I was a car spraypainter for a few years in my early 20's. When we had completed spraypainting a car, we would offer the remaining paint to the owner of the vehicle, for any future dings or scratches. We had completed painting a car bright yellow, and the owner had called to collect his car. I offered the remaining paint to the owner, who asked me how much was in the can. I proceeded to shake the can, but the lid was not on properly. I consequently got covered in (industrial strength) bright yellow paint from head to toe. [We can imagine the glow!]

Untouchable from Earl Gillam of Christchurch

- This is a very old joke... Housewife to painter – "I want you to come into my bedroom and touch up a place where my husband put his hand last night".

Flake mistake From Ces Anderson of Waipu

- Recently while working on the exterior of a residence in a rural area, my No 2, Clint, was in urgent need of a toilet, but alas, the owners were out and the house locked. The house was surrounded by a mature maize crop so he hopped over the fence and took advantage of the good cover. A couple of minutes elapsed then to my surprise a combine harvester appeared very close to where I imagined Clint was and the machine proceeded to raise the crop to ground level. Needless to say Clint retreated somewhat shaken and out of breath, over the fence, and back to work. I heard him muttering about someone sending in some fairly sophisticated equipment to clean up after him! Can you imagine what the paint job looked like with all those maize flakes in the air? Something between rustic and flake texture on weatherboard.

More news next month!

Eneser ♥
Bucket

Eneser Bucket, Editor.



Painting with Eneser No. 63