

Resene TradeLines

April 2003



“This late Easter weekend has thrown out the calendar a little with two significant times of the year in just one week with Anzac weekend rounding out Easter week. With all those days off work, there's no excuse not to look back and ponder the past and be grateful for everything we often take for granted. Workplace safety has been a hot topic recently with large numbers of us still getting injured and worse at work despite increasing numbers of safety regulations to help keep us safe. Trouble is, accidents always happen when we least expect it - the one day you don't wear a helmet is guaranteed to be the one day you have something fall on your head. With safety, only 100% safety is good enough, because anything less means that someone is likely to suffer. So make being site safe a habit, look after yourself and your workmates, take advantage of the professional development course the Master Painter and Resene are offering with OSH and we'll all be right as rain and enjoying our retirements together.”

The Resene Great Professional Tips and Stories Promotion is on!



As promised last month, here's your big chance to enjoy fame and fortune just for sending us in your best painting/decorating tip or funny story. We've got literally tonnes of cool prizes lined up which we figure will equate to about 1 prize per entrant (which we'll only give out if you give us a worthy story or tip) and a **first prize of \$500 CASH for the best story and \$500 CASH for the best tip**. You've got until 31 May 2003 to get your entries in. Everything we get in will be subject to being printed somewhere, so if you don't want your name attached to the story or tip, make sure you let us know! On the other hand, it could be great advertising so don't be afraid to let us know your business name and we can give you a free plug if you want. Entries are open to commercial customers only, so we expect fierce competition.

Just to get you started (and as this is the first, it is in 1st place until we get more entries!), here's the sort of story you may decide to send us...

A local painter was proud of his time in the trade and with good reason, as he was a long serving painter with many successful years and contracts to his name. Recently the painter was doing a repaint of a bedroom in a dementia home and was under pressure from the lady who resided in the room as she wanted to get it back in a hurry. On his second day in the room, he assured the lady he would be finished soon. About an hour

later, the lady approached the painter again and enquired how long he had been painting. The painter proudly replied "45 years"... to which the lady politely replied "then no wonder I'm so angry - hurry up, I want my room back!"

So get your tip or story into your local Resene ColorShop, post to Resene Marketing, PO Box 38242, Wellington Mail Centre or email to advice@resene.co.nz with subject header - Tips Comp by 31 May 2003. The best will score cash, the rest will score prizes, the ones who don't enter will miss out completely!

Brushstrokes

Taking your Breath away

When someone gives you an unexpected expensive gift, the sharp intake of breath and momentary loss of oxygen, is a good thing. When you are on the playing field and someone runs full bore into your gut, the sudden loss of breath is a bad thing (although only momentarily as you can get revenge in the next play). When you are working in a confined space, lack of air is life threatening.

In fact, OSH has prosecuted companies in the past for exposing workers to dangerous fumes, causing injury and death. Avoiding fumes seems like an easy task, but we can all think of times when we have been over-exposed to solvents just painting a small room, let alone at the bottom of a tank.

If painting tanks and in confined spaces, always take precautions to make sure the ventilation is adequate before you start... if you wait until the fumes start to get the better of you, you may find it is too late to exit the area because your legs quite literally won't be capable of taking you anywhere. This is a scary sensation as you find your limbs are completely unable to respond to your thoughts... in fact a very similar experience to being drunk without any of the pleasant side-effects such as improved good humour and generosity.

Ventilation - both air blowing and extraction methods of ventilation have been suggested as ways to get the air you need when working in a tank but experience has shown that of the two methods, blowing is

more efficient. Extraction tends to produce channelling with smooth air flow and dangerous pockets of solvent vapour. Blowing causes turbulence that disperses solvent pockets.

The geometry and size of tanks makes each one a different problem and it is essential to check that the ventilation arrangement, fan output etc is suitable before painting commences, not after you start feeling the effects of the solvents.

Fore and aft peaks and double bottoms of ship tanks require special attention. Because of their construction, adequate ventilation is difficult, resulting in a rapid build up of solvent vapours to toxic and explosive concentrations. It is necessary to have a responsible standby person at the tank opening to keep a 'head count' of workers and to ensure uninterrupted flow of essential services such as air and electricity.

No ventilation system can reduce solvent vapour levels to below the Threshold Limit Values for solvents in tank coating procedures. Painters must therefore wear air fed hoods or pressure fed masks with additional eye protection. Normal protective clothing must also be worn - e.g. overalls, gloves and suitable footwear of a non-spark type.

At this point you may be thinking that you are safe as houses as you have never painted a tank in your life and have no plans to start now. Still, solvent exposure can affect you when you paint any confined area without adequate ventilation - this could just be a seemingly harmless small bathroom or basement.

Many solvents evaporate and form vapour in the air when containers are left open. These vapours can be breathed in and lead to health problems.

(continued)

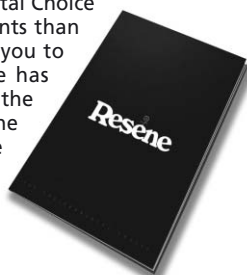
To minimise this, always:

- Store solvents in strong containers.
- Keep containers sealed or stoppered when not being used.
- Keep doorways clear in case you need to leave the area quickly as many solvent vapours are highly flammable and can readily create an atmosphere in which a fire can start.

Knowledge of what you are dealing with is vital to minimise the risks.

At all times take special care to:

- Minimise the volume of flammable solvents present as far as possible.
- Prevent spills and leaks.
- Exclude sources of ignition such as naked lights, unsuitable electrical equipment, static electricity hazards, hot surfaces and mechanical friction.
- Maintain adequate ventilation by opening windows ensuring good air flow or use extraction systems.
- Where possible, choose Resene Environmental Choice approved products as these contain less solvents than traditional paints and are therefore safer for you to use. Over 70% of the Resene product range has Environmental Choice approval - just look for the tick on the pack and data sheet or check out the Resene Environmental Choice brochure or website www.resene.co.nz for a full list.



Health Hazards:

Solvents can enter the body by three routes:

- Inhaled into the lungs
- Absorbed through the skin
- Swallowed

Inhaling a harmful vapour is the most common route of exposure. The toxic effects of solvents may be noticed immediately, some time later or both.

Acute Poisoning:

The first effects are similar to being tipsy:

- A light-headed feeling.

- Slower reaction time.
- Poorer co-ordination, balance and power of reasoning.

Followed by:

- Nausea and dizziness getting more severe.
- Loss of consciousness.

To help a victim of over-exposure to solvent vapours:

- Immediately remove the victim from the atmosphere in which the over-exposure occurred.
- Keep the victim warm and quiet.

If unconscious, if breathing is distressed, or if victim is cyanosed (blue in colour):

- Ensure the airway is open - press the head backwards and lower jaw forwards so that the chin juts out.
- Place the victim in the recovery position.
- Support breathing by mouth to mouth resuscitation. Use CPR if necessary.
- Seek medical attention urgently.

Chronic Poisoning:

After years of repeated exposure, the typical later effects are:

- Mood changes.
- Tiredness.
- Weakness.
- Persistent dermatitis.
- Effects on the liver and kidney.

If you believe you are suffering these effects, see your doctor. Remember, it is best to protect yourself before you start each job by selecting less hazardous products wherever possible and using the right protective equipment for the situation.

Sure, protective equipment doesn't do much for your 'cool' image, but fighting for breath is definitely less cool. Do yourself a favour and get the right products and the right gear and make the most of breathing easy!

Keep It Together

With tonnes of colour tools and info around, keeping everything together can be mission impossible at times. Ask your rep for your free Resene Total Colour System holder - it has plenty of room to keep all your Resene charts, brochures and Resene quote/invoice books together so you'll always know where to look when you need something.



Backyard 'Chores'

With the nights starting to get shorter and chillier, you'd best make the most of the Easter break to turn up the heat on your favourite backyard 'tool' - aka the Barbie! Before you fire it up, here's a wee story of the true division of men's BBQ work...

Definition of Barbecuing...

It's the only type of cooking a "real" man will do. When a man volunteers to do the 'BBQ' the following chain of events are put into motion:

- 1 The woman goes to the store.
- 2 The woman fixes the salad, vegetables, and dessert.
- 3 The woman prepares the meat for cooking, places it on a tray along with the necessary cooking utensils, and takes it to the man, who is lounging beside the grill, beer in hand.
- 4 The man places the meat on the grill.
- 5 The woman goes inside to set the table and check the vegetables.
- 6 The woman comes out to tell the man that the meat is burning.
- 7 The man takes the meat off the grill and hands it to the woman.
- 8 The woman prepares the plates and brings them to the table.
- 9 After eating, the woman clears the table and does the dishes.
- 10 Everyone praises man and thanks him for his cooking efforts.
- 11 The man asks the woman how she enjoyed "her night off." And, upon seeing her annoyed reaction, concludes that there's just no pleasing some women

So, this Easter, if you're a guy, make the most of the praise and if you're a gal, we recommend going out for the night!

More news in May!

Eneser ♥
Buckett

Eneser Buckett, Editor.

Painting with
Eneser Buckett No. 41

