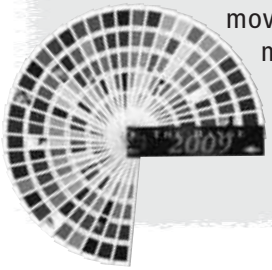
Resene tradeLines

Issue 6 - 2008



"Brr the cold has definitely set in and **Resene Hot Weather Additive** is being moved to one side to make room for wintergrade paints. Winter often means we are stuck indoors so this month we have some tips on respiratory equipment and new VOC free and very low VOC products to help you breathe easier. And of course this time of year the new **The Range fashion fandeck** is let loose..."

Breathe easier

Last month we talked about the **Glove up campaign**, designed to get painters ensuring they have suitable protection to keep them safe from harm. Protecting yourself includes making sure that when the job calls for it, you not only have the right respiratory protection but you use it properly.

Chemical vapour exposure and dusty work environments present workplace respiratory health hazards. To protect yourself and your workers adequately, appropriate respiratory protection must be available. But it's more than a simple matter of having personal protective equipment available – you need to have the right type of equipment, you need to know how to use and look after it and you need to ensure respiratory protection equipment is replaced when cartridges or filters are exhausted.

How long will cartridges and filters last in use?

The service life of cartridges and filters depends on a number of factors, including the type and amount of contaminant in the air, the breathing rate of the wearer, ventilation, humidity, and respirator storage.

How do you know when cartridges and filters need to be changed?

Gas and vapour cartridges must be changed when contaminant can be detected coming through the cartridge by smell or taste – this is called breakthrough. It means the cartridge absorbent material is used up and no longer able to protect the wearer from the contaminant.

Particulate filters must be changed when breathing resistance increases and it becomes uncomfortable to breathe through the filter. This indicates the filter is blocked and has reached its capacity to filter particles.

How do you prevent a filter cartridge from being used to the point of breakthrough so you don't have to smell or taste the contaminant?

To avoid smelling or tasting the contaminant, use the following recommended practice:

1. Write the date on your cartridges when first removed from packet.
2. Use the cartridges on your respirator in a normal work environment.
3. When you can smell or taste the contaminant the cartridge is used up. Work out how long the cartridge lasted by comparing the date it was used up to the date recorded on the cartridge.
4. Replace cartridges at two thirds of this time in future.

What is the shelf life of cartridges and filters?

Provided they are stored unopened in their original packaging, most cartridges and filters will last five years. Once removed from their packaging, they should be replaced after six months.

What happens if you do not use a particulate pre-filter with your respirator cartridge?

The particulate filter is more important for protecting your health than the respirator cartridge. The pre-filter removes tiny droplets of particles in the air (e.g. mists from spray painting). The cartridge does not filter these particles, and if no pre-filter is used, they could be breathed in.

Can you wear a respirator with a beard?

Any facial hair may result in an incomplete seal around the face, thus allowing some chemical vapours and particulates through. It's best for anyone required to wear respiratory protection to be clean-shaven, to ensure the respirator can form a good seal against the face.

How should you store your respirator?

Respirators should be kept in an airtight container (e.g. bucket with sealed lid) when not in use. Cartridges continue to absorb solvent vapours from the air during storage, so their service life may be reduced if they are not stored correctly.

Where can you find out more?

The Department of Labour's OSH website offers numerous publications relating to occupational health issues in relation to workplace exposure to chemicals and dust: **www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/index.shtml**

And of course, where possible and appropriate choose lower hazard paints, such as **Resene Environmental Choice** waterborne paints. Where more hazardous products are essential for the project, then protect yourself against the hazards – your body will thank you for looking after it.

Resene. Certified products since 1996

Thanks go to NZ Safety for providing this information to keep everyone safe.

In Australia, PO Box 785, Ashmore City, Queensland 4214
Call 1800 738 383, visit www.resene.com.au
or email advice@resene.com.au

Resene
the paint the professionals use

In New Zealand, PO Box 38242, Lower Hutt 5045
Call 0800 RESENE, visit www.resene.co.nz
or email advice@resene.co.nz

Think **fresh**

And while we are on the subject of breathing easier, the **Resene VOC free range** has expanded. **Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free** is now available in white, light, pastel, mid, deep and ultra deep tones, which means you can get this product in thousands of colours. Best of all, the pricing of the VOC free version is the same as **Resene Zylone Sheen** standard so using the new versions won't cost you any more.

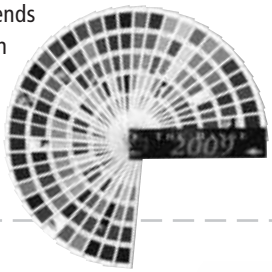
Resene Broadwall Waterborne Wallboard Sealer is also VOC Free, while **Resene Ceiling Paint and Resene Broadwall 3 in 1** are very low VOC (1gm and 1.7gm per litre respectively).

Plus, to keep **Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free** free of VOCs, Resene tinters are available in VOC Free variants. This means you can get **Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free** (and other Resene paints) tinted with the VOC Free tinters on request). Some colour restrictions apply. Available from Resene Head Office.

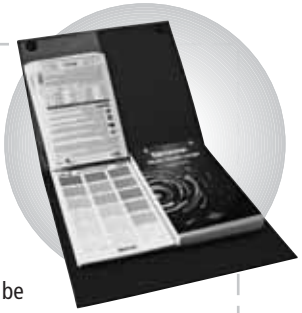
Resene has a wide range of products that meet the **Green Star** and **Green Star NZ VOC requirements** (under section IEQ13) and the environmental credentials requirements under section MAT10, including the **Resene Zylone Sheen VOC Free range**. Ask your Resene rep for more detail.

Hot colours

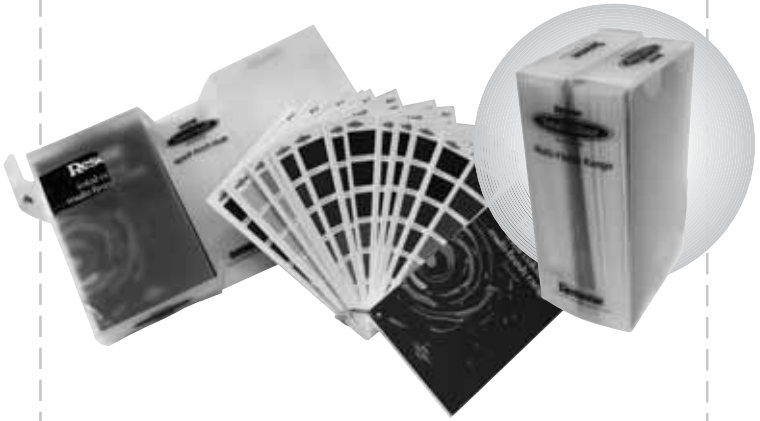
The latest **The Range 2009** is just out and about with a few sneaking out the door already and more following closely behind. We'll run you through the hot colour trends next month to catch you up to date with the latest fashion before the spring painting rush starts and customers want your colour advice for the coming season.



Keeping it **together**



Last year we released two handy carriers to help you keep all your multi-finish palettes neat and tidy. The holders are available as either a black ringbinder or a translucent holder with the palettes held together with a silver ring so they can be fanned out. So you can either order the holder only and keep your existing palettes together, or if you need a full set we can supply the holder complete with palettes. Both are available free of charge from Resene representatives or email **update@resene.co.nz** with your full name, business name and delivery address and let us know what you'd like.



We also have available large **Resene Total Colour System** black plastic holders for storing all the other Resene colour charts, brochures etc to keep them clean and dry. These are also available free from Resene representatives or email us at **update@resene.co.nz** with your details.

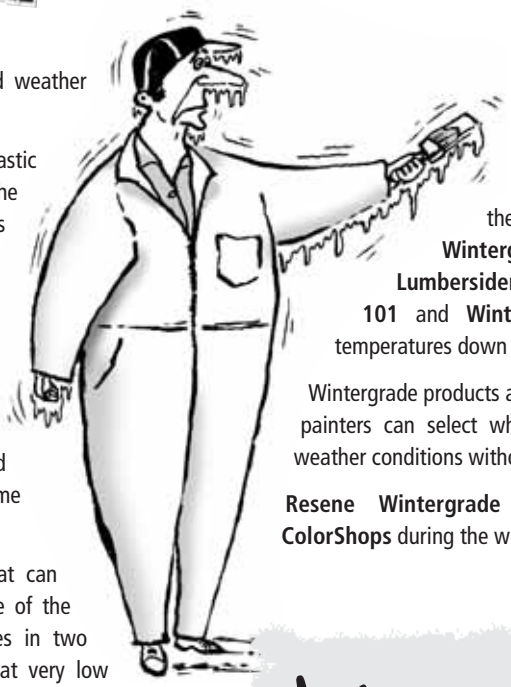
Don't get caught in the **cold**

Painting in winter can be a challenge with the cold weather playing havoc with application and performance.

Waterborne paints are typically based on tiny, thermoplastic particles that deform and stick to one another during the stresses of drying and film formation. Particles deliberately engineered to be soft, form films easily even at quite low temperatures. The softness, however, extends to the finished film, making it prone to damage from dirt retention. Hard particles can be made, but they require heat, or large amounts of plasticising solvents, in order to form films.

A compromise was required and the industry accepted particles that needed some plasticising solvent, and some heat (10°C or higher) to form useful films.

Since that time, novel technologies have arisen that can overcome the hardness/film-formation dilemma. One of the methods is to build the sub-micron plastic particles in two separate phases – a soft phase that will coalesce at very low temperatures; and a hard, tough phase that will contribute good film properties – a paint version of peanut toffee. Because coalescing solvents are not necessary, an added bonus of the technology is that it is very green with low VOC.



Waterborne paints can be formulated without humectants (typically added to slow the dry in hot weather), which makes them faster to dry in winter.

The Resene Technical team have developed the novel technology into a series of **Resene Wintergrade products** – **Resene Wintergrade Lumbersider**, **Wintergrade Hi-Glo**, **Wintergrade Sonyx 101** and **Wintergrade Quick Dry** – that will dry in temperatures down to 2°C.

Wintergrade products are the same price as the standard products, so painters can select whichever product fits in best with the local weather conditions without affecting the contract price.

Resene Wintergrade products are available from **Resene ColorShops** during the winter months.

More news next month!
TwoCan, Editor.

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