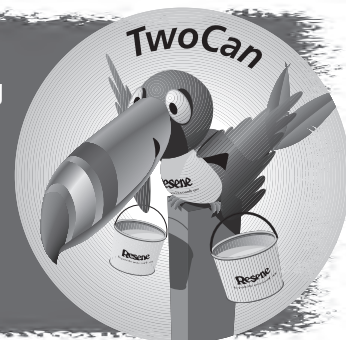


“ After a busy summer period, fatigue might be just starting to creep in. If you're starting to feel weary, make sure you pay extra special attention to safety. Unfortunately tiredness and those brief moments of inattention can result in some very nasty injuries or worse. So make being site safe a habit, look after yourself and your workmates and check out the **Resene Putting your safety first brochure** available free from Resene ColorShops, Resellers and our website and our ladder safety information in this issue... ”



## Project protection

New to **Resene Uracryl GraffitiShield** is a semi-gloss clear finish providing a choice between the existing gloss option and the new lower sheen semi-gloss variant.

Unsightly graffiti is a nightmare for property owners in graffiti prone areas. Worst of all, not only does it look bad and cost money to fix, but the longer you leave it the more likely it will attract more graffiti.

Traditionally anti-graffiti protective coatings have been full of solvents. Keen to provide a lower VOC option, Resene has developed **Resene Uracryl GraffitiShield**, a high performance waterborne two pack urethane designed to provide a clear protective finish as a defence against graffiti. Once cured, if graffiti does occur, it can be removed using Resene Graffiti Cleaner without the need to repaint the area. Ideal for use on businesses, homes and buildings that are prone to graffiti.

Newly reformulated **Resene Graffiti Cleaner** is free of NMP and is formulated for effective and easy removal of graffiti and is very effective against common materials used for graffiti, such as spray paint, inks, crayons and lipsticks.



Graffiti is often called a gateway crime – left unaddressed, taggers often progress to more serious crimes, so it pays to have an anti-graffiti plan in place to tackle any graffiti promptly otherwise the problem will likely escalate.

See Resene Data Sheet RA58 for more information on **Resene Uracryl GraffitiShield**.

When helping clients with graffiti problems, some other ideas to consider are:

- Planting shrubs or a tree against walls and fences exposed to tagging or plant climbing shrubs or hedges. Species with prickles provide additional protection.
- Painting fences and walls standard colours because unpainted fences act as magnets to taggers.
- Installing security nightlights in possible graffiti prone areas. Lights with motion sensors are a popular choice as they only activate when a person approaches.

For more ideas on dealing with graffiti, see [www.graffitifree.co.nz](http://www.graffitifree.co.nz).

## Handy hint



With the hot weather now on tap, **Resene Hot Weather Additive** is a must for many jobs. If you've been struggling trying to figure out an easy way to measure out how much you need – here's a quick tip. If you are using a 250ml or 500ml bottle, the cap holds 10ml – so 1 capful is the average recommended dose for 500ml, 2 capfuls for 1L and so on.

And if you are using the 4L pack size, the lid holds 15-20ml so you can use that as your pouring device.

## Award winning colour Show your true colours and receive the recognition you deserve.



The **2012 Resene Total Colour Awards** are open for entry to recognise outstanding use of colour. We want to celebrate the best of the best, so if you've worked on a particularly colourful project recently then check out [www.resene.com/colourawards](http://www.resene.com/colourawards) for entry details or pick up an entry form from your Resene ColorShop or Representative. Categories include: Residential – interior, Residential – exterior, Commercial – exterior, Commercial – interior, Education, Landscape, Display/Product, Rising star – Student, Lifetime achievement. (Commercial includes commercial, corporate rebranding, industrial, government sector). Open to entries from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands.

## Ladder safety

There's nothing like a bit of recycling and this ladder safety advice from Tradelines a few years ago is as relevant today as it was then. It's staggering how many accidents there are every year with people falling off ladders, and even a fall from a relatively low height can result in a very serious injury so it's worth thinking twice about ladder safety every time you are getting your ladder ready to go.

### High side

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.

## Chill out

Peter of PJ Painters has two tips to help you out...

### First for the cool tip...

"On a very hot day using 2 litres of acrylic on weatherboards drop two ice cubes into your pot and you will find the paint will run real smooth through the cooling. Peter says he has patented this so if you decide to try it out, send \$2 to Peter Mee of PJ Painters. It truly works. All donations gratefully accepted."

### And Peter's second tip? Don't work with children or animals...

"20 years ago I happened to work on a two storeyed home in Remuera. The lady had two less than well behaved kids who drove me insane. They would want to roll the walls and paint the window frames etc, which they would do behind my back. I told the lady of the house if she didn't stop the kids being a nuisance, I was gone. It didn't last long for when I was working upstairs they would fire acorns into the bedrooms from down below and give me grief. Thank goodness I thought to myself, I was nearly finished up top. Until I found that the doors I had painted had been damaged by their long haired red retriever who had walked from room to room wagging his tail leaving his hairs in my fresh paintwork. What a household and experience that was!"

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.
- Always keep your cellphone handy if you are using a ladder when there is no one else around – just in case.

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.

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, shout for help or if you have a cellphone handy call 111.

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 extra super ladder safe next time.



Happy decorating!  
Catch ya next month!

TwoCan, Editor.

