

DID YOU KNOW?



Hints and tips from the Technical Department

Blistering of Acrylic Paints

With the summer painting season comes the occasional blistering complaint. With long evenings it is not uncommon for homeowners to paint in the evening after work, as "acrylic paints dry in 2 hours."

Sometimes the paintwork will be covered in blisters the following morning which is naturally of concern to the painter.

The following notes will be of assistance and reassurance to those faced with this situation.

The problem observed is commonly seen when water based paints are caught by heavy dew, or a downpour within the first few days of application.

Water borne paints contain ingredients which make them briefly water sensitive. These ingredients slowly evaporate and leach out over a period of time.

Tinting significantly increases the amount of these water sensitive ingredients.

In most cases the blisters formed are small in size and large in number. They disappear once the surface has dried out, no harm having been done.

In a few cases, where the paint is subjected to heavy rain within a few hours of application, large water filled blisters form, which due to the mass of water present, stretch the paint film resulting in "stretch marks" when the surface dries out.

These will need to be spot repaired by scraping or sanding the "stretch marks", feathering the edges, and spot painting the area affected.

This procedure is quite straight forward and relatively easy to do. The repair should be virtually invisible. Again no permanent damage will have been done to either the paint film or the substrate.

Once the paint has fully cured, which takes up to one week depending on the micro-climate, the problem is gone.

Our labels advise stopping painting 4 hours before dewfall, this is around 4 to 4.30 pm in the middle of summer.