

DID YOU KNOW?



Hints and tips from the Technical Department

Repainting of Old Paint Outdoors

Painted surfaces that are aged (20+ years) can be occasionally give problems when repainted. Here we outline the commonest reasons and offer some tips on reducing possible problems

The old paint has been going through a cyclic routine of expanding and contracting and increasing and decreasing moisture content for years and, the paint gives the impression of being perfectly sound.

Preparing the surface for re painting subjects the old paint to sudden extreme changes e.g. Water blasting introduces moisture as well as exerting pressure and vibration (especially on galvanised iron).

Sanding introduces rapid heating due to friction.

Chemical washing introduces water as well as salts and detergents that may affect water sensitivity.

At the completion of the cleaning process the surface may appear sound but changes bought about by the stress of cleaning are occurring.

A cleaned surface will often start to breakdown (blistering, cracking, and peeling) within 3 months, of cleaning even if not repainted.

The thicker the original coats the more likely it is that this will occur.

If the surface appears fine after preparation, repainting introduces a new set of stresses.

New coats of paint shrink slightly during drying, and can pull the surface apart at the weakest point.

Repainting in a darker colour is unwise, as dark colours absorb heat. This causes rapid movement, once again leading to possible failure by cracking, peeling or blistering.

We suggest the following

- Where possible check the thickness and type of existing paint (meths test) and remove as much as is practical.
- Avoid repainting with dark colours especially over older enamel paints.
- Avoid putting enamel over acrylic.

Steps can be taken to minimise the possibility of this happening and achieving a paint job that will last.

Should problems be encountered, scraping back the affected areas, feathering off and spot touching up is generally successful in affecting repair.