

## YELLOWING OF OIL BASED ENAMEL PAINTS

We often get complaints from customers after a couple of months that their doors are now cream or yellow, not white as it was when the painting was completed.

In years gone by people accepted this yellowing as part of using an enamel paint because that was all that was available. These days customers are more demanding and think the enamel (alkyd) paint should stay white, because there have been advances in technology, and the advent of acrylic water based paint. Acrylic water based paints do not yellow, but enamels do. Let's look at why enamels yellow, and how to prevent this happening.

Oil based enamel paints yellow in two situations.

- 1) Over time where there is little or no light such as passages, insides of cupboards and behind doors that are kept open. This yellowing is reversible and the coating will revert to white on constant exposure to light.
- 2) Enamels may also turn yellow while drying if ammonia is present in the air. Ammonia is found in many acrylic water based paints, cleaners and other household products like floor polish. This type of yellowing is not reversible.

It is possible to avoid or minimise yellowing by doing the following:

- Only use oil based enamel coatings in areas where there is sufficient natural or artificial light.
- If there is insufficient light, especially on cavity slider doors, use a premium acrylic enamel such as Taubmans UltraProof Acrylic Enamel.
- As ammonia causes yellowing, apply the water based paints first and allow the paint to dry with good ventilation for at least 24 hours before applying the oil based enamel. Never apply an oil based enamel first or in the same day as water based paints
- If customers insist on the use of an oil based enamel in areas where it may yellow, warn them before hand of the possibility so that they may make an informed decision.

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