

“ With the wet weather among us, this **Tradelines** is dedicated to all things water. Water is ingrained in our lives and is essential for life – in the right amount. Too much or too little and we’re waterlogged or dehydrated. Just as a human can get the wrong amount of water, so too can a home or building... ”



## Wet wet wet

While we generally think of humidity being a summertime issue, saturation of the air with water is actually very common over the winter months when someone is painting indoors. Paint may fail over new paperfaced plasterboard if the relative humidity is too high for the paint to dry.

Relative humidity is a measure of how much water vapour air is holding expressed as a percentage of the maximum amount of water it can hold at whatever the temperature is. At 100% relative humidity water cannot evaporate out of coatings.

Air has very poor water carrying power. At 15°C a cubic metre of air can only hold 12 grams of water. At 25°C a cubic metre of air can only hold 25 grams of water.

Work on interior stopping may be done in all weather and is often undertaken when it is raining. Wet conditions outside will mean air is close to 100% relative humidity and therefore cannot hold any more water. Damp conditions will ensure the plaster cures well but skim coat type products will be seriously retarded in



dry because the air is too wet. Water may go back into the surface rather than out into the wet air.

In these conditions air will soon reach saturation point and if temperatures drop there may be condensation as well. Very little loss of water from the stopping into the air will occur. In summer conditions an estimated 40 changes of air in a room are needed to remove water from wallboards.

In wet or winter conditions ventilation plus heating will be needed to ensure that the coating is adequately ventilated to cure. The issue is generally worse with lower odour waterborne paints as the decorator is more likely to keep the windows shut throughout the painting process and afterwards reducing the amount of ventilation in the room. Worst of all is shutting up the building as soon as the painting is complete for an extended period of time

as the water laden air won't be ventilated and the poor old paint on the wall won't be able to cure properly.

So, next time you're painting indoors, spare a thought for the poor old paint coating and ensure there is adequate ventilation.

## Wet wise

Bathrooms, kitchens, laundries and other interior wet areas are unfortunately very attractive spaces for mould and bacteria to move in. The ongoing moisture in interior wet areas is like a homing beacon for bacteria and mould, with both happily settling in as if it was a 5 star resort.



**Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom** is purpose designed for these areas, combining the benefits of the popular low sheen waterborne enamel with added anti-bacterial silver protection and the mould protection of **Resene MoulDefender**.

Available in white and colours off white, it is ideal for all wet areas for added protection. **Resene MoulDefender** has proven itself as a useful additive over the last few years,

helping to slow down the growth of mould. Of course you have to make sure the surface is free of moss and mould before you start the painting otherwise you'll just have to start from scratch again.

Anti-bacterial silver protection is a handy tool in the technical team's belt and is recognised as a safe and healthy method of deodorising and sanitising surfaces that come in contact with skin, food and water.

### To find out more check out:

Data Sheet D311K for more info on **Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen Kitchen & Bathroom**.

## Watermark

Where there is excess moisture, surfactant leaching is an unfortunate common side effect.

Waterborne interior products in particular are vulnerable to surfactant leaching, where some areas of the paint surface appear to be covered in white streaks, giving a watermark effect. Surfactant leaching only affects the appearance of the paint finish, not its durability. It cannot be accurately predicted or prevented, but is more likely to occur in wet areas, such as bathrooms, where ventilation is poor.

Surfactant leaching is caused by water sitting on freshly applied waterborne paints. Water softens the fresh paint and draws out water soluble surfactants. As water dries off these are deposited on the surface. These deposits are easily removed early on by simply cleaning the surface using **Resene Interior Paintwork Cleaner**. The problem may occur once or twice again before all leachable material is completely removed. If left, the deposits can etch the surface and leave a permanent mark. This should diminish over a few months and is only of cosmetic concern.

Surfactant leaching is usually associated with marginal painting conditions. Highly tinted paints are more prone to surfactant leaching than are white paints because of the ingredients that are present in tinters. To prevent surfactant leaching, it is best to avoid application in the late afternoon if cool, damp conditions are expected in the evening or overnight. Ensure adequate ventilation is maintained during the drying period. If surfactant leaching does occur, clean with **Resene Interior Paintwork Cleaner** as soon as possible to avoid permanent marking.



## And now that you have the room ventilated and the wet areas coated, **what about you?**

Water makes up around 60% of our body weight and the general consensus is that most people should drink about 1.5-2L per day of water to keep our systems humming. Every day your body uses water up, so its a case of having to replace it to keep everything in balance.

Too little water can cause dehydration, and even mild dehydration can make you feel tired. If you are feeling excessively thirsty, tired, have a headache, dry mouth, weak muscles, are feeling dizzy or lightheaded and haven't needed to go to the toilet for a while, there is a good chance that you may be dehydrated.

There's no set rule on exactly how much water to consume and each person's needs do vary. The guide eight glasses of water a day is followed by many, though it isn't supported by scientific evidence. If you aim to replace all the fluid you lose in a normal day of functioning, you'd need around 2.5 litres of fluid, of which food is likely to be 20% (or half a litre), leaving you with 2 litres to consume as water or other beverages.

And if you have mastered all this, then don't forget when you are working or playing hard, or are enjoying some hot weather, dehydration is more likely so you'll need to take extra care to keep up the water intake.

## The customer may not always be right...

### **Our Manukau ColorShop has reported the following interesting customer visits...**

A lady customer came into our shop, put a one litre of Sureseal on the counter and said, "I think this is a mistint – it's the wrong colour".

And just today we had a customer come into our shop with a strong accent and asked if we had any 'permanent phillip'... needless to say we sold him a tub of Permafill!

## Cold water

A boy went to visit his grandfather and while eating the breakfast of eggs and bacon prepared for him, he noticed a film-like substance on his plate. So he says, "Grandfather, are these plates clean?" His grandfather replies, "Those plates are as clean as cold water can get them, so go on and finish your meal."

That afternoon, while eating the hamburgers his grandfather made for lunch, he noticed many little black specks around the edge of his plate so again he asked, "Grandfather are you sure these plates are clean?"

Without looking up from his burger, the grandfather says, "I told you those dishes are as clean as cold water can get them, now don't ask me about it anymore."

Well, later that day, the boy offered to go out and get dinner. As he was leaving the house, the grandfather's dog who was lying on the floor started to growl, and would not let the boy pass.

"Grandfather, your dog won't let me out."

Without diverting his attention from the game he was watching, his grandfather shouted, "Coldwater, get your butt out of the way!"



**More news next month!**  
TwoCan, Editor.

