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The Building Research Association of New Zealand

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Updated: Feb 2009 (FM00607 02/09)

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Exterior Cedar Timber

This timber is best coated with an exterior timber stain, as this highlights the natural beauty and texture of the timber and allows the grain to show through. Alternatively, if you do need to paint the timber, apply oil-based wood primer as a first coat followed by a further two coats of the appropriate finish coat. Water blasting cedar is not recommended, as this can damage the soft timber fibres and erode the timber.



Exterior Plywood

This type of timber is made up of thin layers of timber veneer, glued at right angles to each other, to give a high strength building material. Because of the stress this timber comes under, the face of the panelling is prone to splitting and cracking, causing paint to delaminate and peel off. Plywood can be coated with an exterior timber stain, as this highlights the natural beauty and texture of the timber and allows the grain to show through. Alternatively, if you need to paint the surface, ensure that the surface has been cleaned and top coat with two coats of premium 100% acrylic exterior house paint. (Please note: this timber comes LOSP and CCA treated, check code requirements for finish especially if being used for bracing.)



If you're unsure of what product to use on the surface you are about to paint or stain, please contact your local PlaceMakers store for advice. The last thing that we want to see is all your hard work in preparing the surface going to waste, because you have used the wrong product for the job.

COMMON PAINTING TERMS

Sheen This term refers to the level at which the paint reflects light. Paints with high sheen levels are more stain resistant and durable. Sheen levels are generally classified as gloss, semi gloss, satin and flat.

Gloss paints have a highly reflective surface. Solvent-based gloss paints are the toughest, most durable and stain resistant. Gloss paints are easier to clean and are a good choice for high traffic areas.

Semi Gloss are also very durable and easy to clean but have a less shiny appearance. They work well in bathrooms, kitchens, children's rooms and hallways.

Satin is a paint with moderate sheen levels giving it a good combination of easy to clean features with a low gloss finish. This makes it ideal for play rooms and dining rooms.

Eggshell is a smooth and low sheen finish, ideal for dining rooms, study rooms or bedrooms.

Flat Flat paints diffuse light and are ideal for large walls and ceilings. They also hide imperfections well.

Hiding Power The paint's ability to hide the surface it's applied to – usually given by how thickly the paint adheres.

Adhesion The paint's ability to hold on or adhere to a surface.

Splatter Resistance The paint's tendency to throw off small droplets during application, especially when using rollers.

Stain Resistance The paint's ability to resist the retention of dirt and grime.

Stain Removability Indicates the ease with which stain and grime can be removed from the surface.

Scrub Resistance The paint's ability to maintain its natural colour and not get glossy patches when washed or scrubbed.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT PAINT

YOUR COMPLETE KNOW HOW GUIDE



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GETTING STARTED

Choosing the right paint for your project can be difficult. The main consideration is to get the correct product for the job, so it lasts the distance and looks good in the future. There are so many different types of paint on the market, knowing which is most suitable for a particular job is a skill all its own.

The following guide will help you choose the most appropriate product for the surface you are about to paint.

Different Types of Paint

Water-Based Exterior

Water-based exterior finishes are normally softer and more flexible, allowing the paint film to expand and contract with hot and cold weather. They have high colour retention and are also resistant to chalking. Water-based exterior finishes require UV light to cure and are unsuitable for use inside.

Water-Based Interior

Water-based interior finishes are made of a harder resin to withstand continual wiping of the surface coating. These paints have high resistance to wear but low UV resistance, and as such are not ideal for exterior use.

Water-Based Enamels

Water-based enamels can be used both inside and outside. They contain UV absorbers to counteract the harsh New Zealand conditions. Acrylic enamels dry quickly, are hard wearing, have low odour and are easy to clean up. They also resist adhesion of contact surfaces.

Oil-Based Enamels

Traditional oil-based enamels are suitable for inside and outside (gloss only). However, they do yellow over time when used on the interior. Oil-based enamels are not very flexible as they dry to a smooth hard-wearing finish. These paints are abrasive resistant, suitable for wet areas and allows for frequent cleaning with an easy-to-clean surface. For oil-based enamels gloss is suitable for both interior and exterior use while semi-gloss, satin and matt are usually recommended for interior use only.

Exterior Timber Stain

Exterior timber stains have a limited life, normally 18 months to three years, depending on the conditions the products are used in. Regular maintenance is necessary to ensure protection of the timber. If the surface is in good condition, a wash down with sugar soap (flushed with fresh water) followed by restaining is normally all that is necessary. (Check the back of the cans for information.)



Sealer Undercoats

“Sealers” imply the need to ‘seal’ or create a barrier between a substrate (surface) and the finish, when the substrate could have an undesirable effect on the finish. For example ‘Pigmented Sealers’ for plasterwork and cement are alkali resistant, so that the enamel finish coat will not be broken down by the lime in the substrate. Sealers can also be applied as a barrier between incompatible finishing coats, for example, when overcoating previous finishes.

Primer Undercoats

Primer is the first coat applied to a substrate. Generally where a sealer has been used, you don't need another primer. Primers penetrate and stabilise the substrate to produce a surface of uniform porosity, so the subsequent coats can be finished to a high standard. Primer also acts as an adhesion promoter, so the top coatings stick to the surface. They can also provide corrosion protection to metals.

Different Types of Surfaces

GIB® Plasterboard

Surfaces should be thoroughly cleaned with no dust or contaminants present. The first coat should be an undercoat and wallboard sealer or primer sealer undercoat. Both of these products are water based. If the plasterboard has been exposed to the sunlight and discoloured, is older than 12 weeks or is Aqualine®, it is recommended that the first coat be a pigmented sealer (oil based). This seals the surface without too much absorption and stops discolouration. Do not sand the face of the plasterboard. The finish coats can be either water or oil-based, depending on what is recommended for the area being painted.



Fibrous Plaster

Fibrous plaster is an exceptionally smooth, flawless finish. Decorative mouldings and ceiling centre pieces are made from plaster that requires the application of oil based pigmented sealer as a first coat. The surface must be free from defects and contaminants as these can affect the adhesion of the coating. The finish coats can be either water or oil based, depending on what is recommended for the area being painted.



MDF Board

This is a man made, compressed timber panelling which requires the application of an acrylic primer undercoat as a first coat, even if the top coat is to be oil based. If oil-based primer undercoats are applied as a first coat you may find the MDF board starts to delaminate and come apart. The finish coats can be either water or oil based, depending on what is recommended for the area being painted.

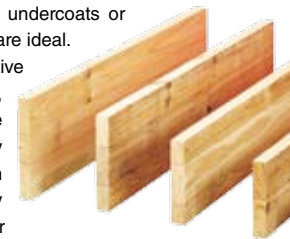


Interior Timber

Most interior decorative timber is untreated and requires the application of a coating to seal the timber grains. Oil-based undercoats or appropriate acrylic primer sealer undercoats are ideal.

If tannin rich timbers (Cedar) or oily native timbers (Rimu or Totara) have been chosen, an acrylic primer sealer undercoat can be used (Note: read product information carefully as some of the acrylic sealer undercoats claim to be a tannin barrier). This helps prevent any ‘bleeding’ of the treatments through lighter coloured acrylic coatings and avoids drying problems that may occur with oil-based undercoats.

The finish coats can be either water or oil based, depending on what is recommended for the area being painted.



Galvanised Steel & Zincalume®

Surfaces must be cleaned thoroughly prior to the application of a coating; to remove any contamination that may be present which can affect adhesion of the paint coating. Galvanised iron primer (water based or oil based) is ideal for priming these surfaces. New metal surface should be allowed to weather for approximately 3 months to allow any mill oils present to disperse from the surface. Roofs exposed to harsh, salt air should be primed using an oil-based galvanised primer, self priming top quality roof paints are also available. These do not require a primer, but the use of a primer in harsh environments will increase the life of the coating.



Masonry, Cement Render, Fibre Cement, Brick

Surfaces must be washed thoroughly to remove all contamination, dirt, mould, lichen, etc. Use sugar soap then flush the surface with fresh water to remove any residue. Allow to dry before attempting to apply a coat of paint. Self-priming acrylics are ideal for these surfaces. Apply 1 coat of acrylic to seal these surfaces followed by 2 further coats for protection. Acrylic primer undercoat can be used to seal these surfaces, followed by two coats of the appropriate finish coat.



Exterior Timber

All exterior timber must be treated. If you are going to paint it with a light coloured acrylic coating, you must apply a coat of appropriate wood primer to seal the surface. If ‘bleeding’ of the tannin in the timber is not an issue, acrylic primer undercoat can be used to seal the timber, followed by a further two coats of the appropriate finish coat.

