

## FACT SHEET

### HINTS TO SOLVE PAINT PROBLEMS

The most common problems that can occur with painting and how to rectify them are as follows:

**Bleeding:**

This can be observed when water soluble extractives in freshly cut timber penetrate through the new coating and create a pink or brown stain. This stain will wash off with water. However, to prevent bleeding, in the first instance, a stain blocking primer should be used as a first coat.

**Cracking:**

There are numerous reasons for this problem to occur. Moisture under the film, or the use of inferior quality coatings which, when dry, are inflexible, are common causes. In addition, improper mixing of paint or uneven application of the coating are other known factors that cause cracking. The regrettable result of this is a break up and peeling of the coating.

Rectification of a cracked surface would involve complete removal of the existing coatings by sandpaper, scraper, paint stripper, or hot air pistol. Take care when using such tools to always follow the manufacturer's directions.

Do not repaint until the surface is completely dry. Use good quality paint and ensure that it is thoroughly stirred before proceeding with application.

**Cross-Grain Cracking:**

This problem manifests as cracks across the grain of the wood. Its most common cause is the accumulation of too many layers of paint on a surface which becomes hard and unable

to expand and contract with the wood surface. Its remedy is to remove layers and repaint.

**Flaking:**

If paint is applied to a moist or excessively hot surface, or where an inferior coating has been unevenly applied, flaking results. There is only one solution to this problem, thorough removal of the problem paint and repainting. Do not paint during early morning or in direct sunlight, choose the correct paint for the task and ensure it is of good quality.

**Peeling:**

Here the dried coating detaches in relatively large pieces from a previously coated surface. This usually results from water under the paint surface, but can also be caused by painting over a surface that is too hard, smooth, glossy or chalky. The solution, once again, is to remove the paint and allow the surface to dry before repainting. Hard smooth or glossy surfaces should be rubbed down with a fine grade sandpaper, to provide a rougher surface for the new paint to adhere to.

**Chalking:**

This is apparent from the whitish patches which appear on the painted surface. It is usually the result of the detrimental effects of weather on a painted surface. Remove all traces by washing and then, if necessary, sanding.

No one likes to encounter problems, especially in painting. However, adherence to the above will save both time and money, and result in a more professional finish.