

## FACT SHEET

### LOOKING AFTER PAINT EQUIPMENT

The easiest way to economise and lengthen the life of your painting equipment is to look after the ones you already have. If looked after properly, your painting equipment, including brushes, can last for years and years. It, therefore, makes sense for both the economic and environmental perspectives to look after your paint equipment. The following tips have been supplied by the Australian Paint Manufacturers' Federation.

#### **Brushes**

If brushes are left to stand in a container on their bristles, they will soon become ruined.

Before you paint, drill a hole through the paint brush handle just above the metal ferrule. Fill a suitable container with mineral turps or water (depending on the type of paint used). On completion of painting, squeeze the excess paint out of the brush onto a piece of newspaper and give the brush a thorough rinse in turps (or water). Suspend the brush in the container by passing a piece of wire through the hole in the handle. Leave for a couple of days (out of reach of children!) and the paint will literally fall off the brush and settle onto the bottom of the container.

When stopping for a break you don't necessarily need to wash out brushes/rollers. Just cover them with cling wrap or put them into a tight polythene bag. By keeping air out, the paint will remain wet for a couple of hours until you are ready to recommence.

Alternatively, if paint still remains on the brush, even after a thorough cleaning with mineral turps or water, then try using one of the many commercial brush cleaning products on the market.

#### **Rollers**

Rollers can be cleaned in the same manner as brushes, but ensure that they are completely submerged when suspended.

#### **Water-Based Acrylic Paints**

These paints dry rapidly, which often results in clog up on the brush, especially near the ferrule region (particularly when painting ceilings). It is recommended that during work, pauses are taken to wipe off excess onto old sheets of newspaper or, indeed, wash the brush completely. Using several brushes at a time can also reduce paint clogging.