

FACT SHEET

WATER-BASED PAINTS – SOME POINTS AND COMMENTS

The major qualities which have made water-based paints so popular are:

- **Easy Application:** They brush or roll on very easily.
- **Easy Clean Up:** Simply clean equipment in water.
- **Quick Drying:** Touch dry in 30 minutes and usually recoatable in two hours.
- **Flexibility:** Water-based paints actually stretch and contract so that normal climatic conditions affecting timber and other surfaces will not crack the paint.
- **Water-based paints can also 'breathe'** allowing water vapour out instead of blistering. On the other hand, they won't allow water in so the surface remains waterproof.
- **A Choice of Finishes:** Water-based paints are available in a wide range of colours and several finishes ranging from flat to high gloss. Although the gloss finish is not as full as oil-based enamel, the gloss level is retained much better.
- **Water-based paints are water thinned.** These paints are often selected because clean-up can be done with soap water. These paints are also durable, easy to apply and retain colour well with time. These paints

also emit low amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which is good for the environment.

Today's water-based paints are available in primers, undercoats and finishing coats for both exterior and interior use. Most surfaces, properly prepared, can be painted with water-based paints, ie, brick, stone, fibro, masonry and timber.

Exterior water-based paints are mould resistant, have good adhesive qualities, low odour and are colour fast. In addition, they are non-yellowing and chalking is almost non-existent.

Water-based paints may require a different approach to the more conventional solvent-based paints. For example, as they dry quicker you may chose to use two brushes, keep one soaking in water and change frequently. If the exterior surface is hot and dry or is a porous material hose down and apply paint to the damp (not wet) surface. In hot weather paint on the shady side of the house and do not use water-based paints in low temperatures (refer to the manufacturer's advice on the can with regard to recommended painting temperature ranges).

Always read the manufacturer's label carefully and follow the directions.