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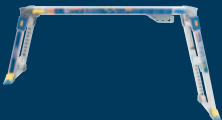
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# The Professional Painter & Decorator

INCORPORATING THE PAINTING & DECORATING JOURNAL

## News 2

### Graining and Marbling techniques 7

Real Rust and Verdigris. 4 commercial and urban industrial projects.

### Crown Paints: Autumn/Winter 2022 Trend Report 10

### Dulux Academy's HUB 18

Dulux Academy has launched THE HUB: a flexible online platform where decorators can access their own personalised learning and networking experience 24/7.

### Valspar: a game changer 20

Valspar has revamped and extended its product range.

### Women in Decorating 22

In this article painting and decorating contractor Bagnalls has interviewed five women in different roles to discuss their experiences.

### Mirka's performance and versatility 26

Mirka's growing product portfolio continues to put the user experience first

### Bust the jargon with Bradite 28

Maybe you should take a closer look at what's in a coating to ensure it's The right product for the job.

### Nature gives life to AkzoNobel's Colour of the year 34

### Werner Height and linking platform 36

### AppyQuote – your admin mate 38

Love your decorating trade, but loathe all that admin? Help is at hand.

### How to make your decorating business green 42

### Not on the tools 46

£137k worth of tools stolen every day across the UK. What to do?

### Brewers Brief 49

### Wondertex creates luxury apartments at iconic Liverpool warehouses 52

### Winter trends 56

Seven experts across varying fields predict the next big interiors and architectural trends.

### Johnstone's Trade announces 2023 Colour of the Year 60

### Wrap it, don't scrap it 61

You can change a kitchen by wrapping the units with film.

### Marketplace 62



**The National  
Painting & Decorating Show**  
**Nov 22nd - Nov 23rd 2022**

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# P&D NEWS

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## Crown Paints open Crown Decorating Centre in Newry

Crown Paints added a splash of colour to Newry as it opened its new Crown Decorating Centre (CDC) in the city earlier this month.

After acquiring the former Paintz premises at Green Bank Loughway Business Park, Crown Paints opened the doors to its new store, which is the ninth CDC to open in Northern Ireland.

The CDC officially opened on Friday 9th September.



## Bartoline launches new improved 'Clean Spirit' non-solvent brush cleaner

Decorating sundries manufacturer Bartoline has launched a new, improved formula Clean Spirit™ brush cleaner. The new Clean Spirit™ provides a non-solvent, water-based, low environmental impact and virtually odourless alternative to traditional solvent-based white spirits.

Clean Spirit™ is effective for cleaning oil and water-based paints from brushes, rollers and paint pads. With its swift action, it should save thousands of brushes from being inadequately cleaned and left standing in white spirit eventually to be thrown out, says Bartoline.



## Covers supports homeless charity with funding

The Chichester depot of Covers Timber & Builders Merchants has donated £4,500 to Stonepillow, helping the local charity replace flooring in its hostel.

Formed in 1989, the charity supports and empowers homeless people across West Sussex by offering a complete recovery journey that focuses on improving health and wellbeing. It provides community outreach services to support rough sleepers, residential services to help people gain stability within the community, supported accommodation for those recovering from homelessness, and a residential community-based abstinence service for people recovering from substance misuse.



## Addagrip Terraco Environmental Policy

Addagrip Terraco has committed to the continuous exploration and development of procedures, systems and working practices that reduce the pollution and impact generated during the normal course of business, while ensuring our products remain of the highest quality.

Recognising and understanding this process aiming to reduce, offset, mitigate or eliminate carbon use where possible and practical, allowing clear objectives to be set which can be monitored, managed and improved. Addagrip Terraco fully supports the principles of, and is committed to the sustainable use of global resources including the reduction of pollution and waste.

## Vivaro Electric top seller

The award-winning Vauxhall Vivaro Electric remains the UK's best-selling electric Light Commercial Vehicle (e-LCV), according to the latest registration figures published by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders (SMMT). The Vivaro Electric sold 3,254 in the first ten months of the year. The success of this model has helped Vauxhall remain the country's best-selling e-LCV manufacturer so far this year, as well as being the second biggest-selling LCV manufacturer overall.





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COLOUR OF THE YEAR 2023  
**WILD  
WONDER™**

**Dulux**  
**TRADE**



# CF23

Introducing **Dulux Trade Colour of the Year 2023 Wild Wonder™**, a glowing, upbeat tone that celebrates and reflects the wonders of nature. Inspired by the warm tones of harvested crops, it brings energy, positivity, and a connection with the natural world to our living and working spaces.

Used alongside our four new expertly curated colour palettes, **Wild Wonder™** is versatile enough for use across bedrooms, kitchens and living rooms to bring energy, positivity, and a connection with the natural world into the home.

Download our Dulux Trade Colour of the Year Decorator guide, packed full of hints and tips for using Wild Wonder™, at [Duluxtrade.co.uk/CF23](https://duluxtrade.co.uk/CF23)



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**20**  
YEARS  
Dulux Colour of the Year

**AkzoNobel**



## Flat Merchants' July sales with volumes down -12.8% and inflation rising +15.0%

The latest Builders Merchant Building Index (BMBI) report reveals that builders' merchants' value sales were virtually flat (+0.2%) in July 2022 compared to the same month in 2021. As in previous months, volume sales were down (-12.8%) yet price inflation remained high (+15.0%). Ten of the twelve categories sold more in July 2022 compared to the previous year, including nine which outperformed Merchants overall. Renewables & Water Saving (+25.5%) Workwear & Safetywear (+20.2%), Kitchens & Bathrooms (+13.1%) and Plumbing, Heating & Electrical (+10.7%) did best. Only Landscaping (-4.6%) and Timber & Joinery Products (-14.4%) sold less.



## Mirka achieves Gold standard with Investors in People

Mirka (UK) Ltd has been awarded the Investors in People (IIP) Gold accreditation. The IIP practitioner praised the business' excellent relationships with all its stakeholders, ensuring continued sustainability, aided by a strong management team that inspires its staff, and delivering high business standards and performance levels.



## Lighthouse revamp is Supreme Winner at PDA's Premier Trophy Awards

A striking revamp of a landmark lighthouse has been declared Supreme Winner at the prestigious Premier Trophy Awards held by the Painting and Decorating Association. National painting and decorating contractor, Ian Williams Ltd won the Industrial category for its work at Longstone Lighthouse, and went on to be declared Supreme Winner at the awards ceremony, held at Plasterers' Hall in London.



## PaintWell buys industrial paints and coatings specialist Promain

PaintWell Limited, the North West's largest independent paint distributor and decorators merchant, is pleased to announce its acquisition of Promain UK Limited.

Following its partnership with Cairngorm Capital Partners in March 2021, PaintWell's initial focus was on expanding its network of branches geographically and developing its e-commerce platform, resulting in eight new branches across the North West, Midlands and Yorkshire. The acquisition of Promain broadens PaintWell's growth, extending the platform for PaintWell's new industrial paints division.

## New And Improved Valspar Trade Range

With advanced water-based formulations that perform where it counts, tests show that Valspar Trade rivals the leading trade brands on areas such as ease of application, coverage and durability. With the introduction of Vinyl Matt and a new exterior range, Valspar Trade's offer is now bigger and better than ever.

The range is available exclusively from TradePoint at B&Q and will start hitting the shelves from 17th October 2022.







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## HMG partner up with Rabart

HMG Paints Ltd have announced a new distribution partnership with fellow family run business Rabart Decorators Merchants. The partnership will see Rabart distribute the HMG range across South Wales and the South West of England. This includes HMG's most popular products from 2K Industrial coatings to specialist UPVC coatings, C71 and QAD Enamels.



## Stay warm this winter with Makita

Makita has released its latest heated jacket, helping to protect wearers against the elements. Powered by the reliable 18V LXT battery, this new warm and stylish jacket is a must-have for cold, harsh jobsite environments, or for outdoor leisure in the cold winter months.

The latest DCJ205 heated jacket is here to offer maximum comfort and durability. Thanks to the five heating zones, users benefit from continuous warmth in the chest and back areas whilst also having control over the three heat level settings. The 18V LXT battery offers even longer continuous runtimes, with a fully charged battery lasting seven hours on the highest setting, 11 hours on medium, and 29 hours on low (when powered by the BL1850B 5.0Ah battery). Customers can use existing batteries or purchase one with the DCJ205 as a kit.



## Crown Paints have donated a brand new bench

Residents at Teddesley Court retirement village in Cannock have been gifted a brand-new bench thanks to a donation made by Crown Paints as part of the paint manufacturer's community outreach and support initiative.

Working with Midland Heart Housing Association, Crown Paints have placed the bench in the outdoor communal area, helping residents to relax and enjoy the summer months.

## 'Armstead Allies' campaign

Armstead Trade's newly formed group of trade mentors – the Armstead Allies – and Volunteer It Yourself (VIY) come together to transform the Nottinghamshire Clubs for Young People.

Alka Dass, Senior Brand Manager – Armstead, said: "As part of AkzoNobel's long-term commitment to giving back to local communities under our People. Planet. Paint. approach, we wanted to put the expertise of the trade front and centre of our latest Armstead Trade campaign. The ambition is all about promoting the profession and getting younger people into the trade. We have an ageing population and this is reflected in the demographic of painters and decorators."



## Family Business United top 100

Family Business Marketing Manager. The duo are recognised amongst other prominent leaders of family business such as John Thatcher of Thatchers Cider, Stephen Bagnall of Alfred Bagnall & Sons, Simon Brewer of Brewers Decorator Centre and Joyce Onuonga of John White & Son Ltd. United recently released the first 50 individuals on the Family Business Top 100 list. Two of the names listed are employees of 92-year-old business HMG Paints Ltd; John Falder, Chairman and Stephen 'Paddy' Dyson,







# bring back any can<sup>\*</sup> and we'll recycle them

Bring back **any branded** empty paint cans to your local Crown Decorating Centre and **we'll recycle them**

So how does it work?

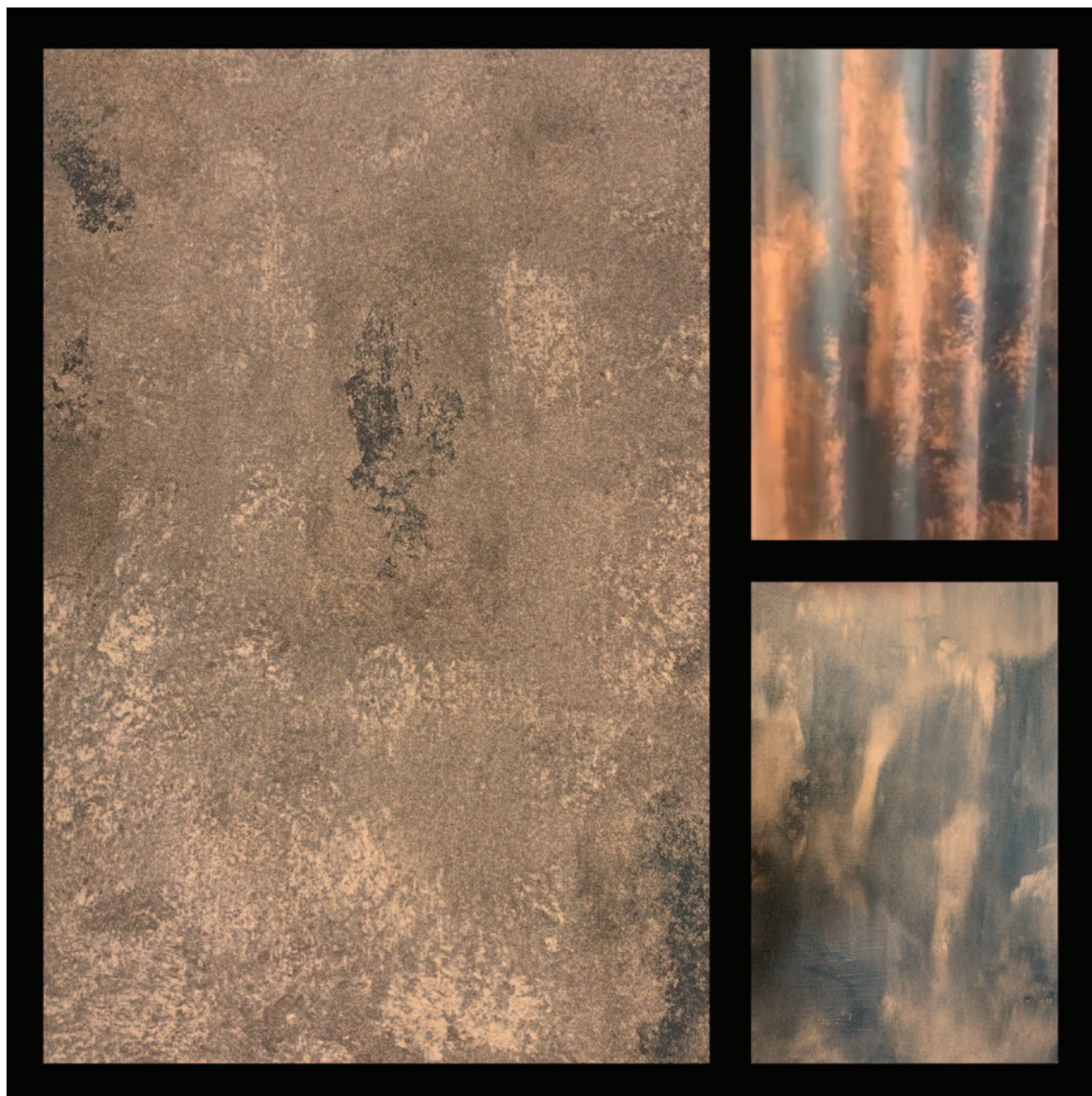


# Real Rust and Verdigris

Cait is decorative painter working throughout UK and teaching from her studio in Perth, Scotland. You can see her work and connect with her on social media; Twitter and Instagram - @paintycait or Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/carteblanchedecorativepainters/>

Decorative painting is very often challenging but invariably fun. Real Rust and Verdigris are fun finishes but are also becoming ever more popular especially for commercial and urban industrial projects. Great for pubs, signage, shops, furniture, metal fittings, detailing and even cabinetry.

Real Rust and Verdigris are paints that contain real iron and copper particles that react to different compounds that will accelerate their change to rust patina or verdigris



We work with two different sets of Italian products to create these finishes; one is from Fleur Paint who have both a dark and light version of Rust and Verdigris. The other is from Stucco Italiano called Reactive Iron and Reactive Copper. The Fleur products are a paint and can be painted or sponged onto the surface. The Stucco Italiano ones are more paste like so can be trowelled or sponged but tend not to brush very easily. In the first image you can see both these finishes before

activation has happened.

In my examples I have shown these two finishes mixed however you can of course use them separately. You apply these mediums either as an independent finish all over a surface or as a detail over any sealed substrate. What does mess with your head as you apply them, is that the copper starts off brown and ends up green/blue and the rust starts off black and goes brown. In your mind when





applying the copper you tend to think it's the rust.....well it does in my brain.

Once applied you activate the materials with mild acids. Both ranges have their own activator, but you can do a certain amount to change the material end colour particularly with the copper.

There are many mild acids that can change the reaction in metals – dilute solutions of salt, vinegar, lemon juice or citric acid in powder form, will all effect the reaction; bleach can bring out a more warm tone, garden fertilizer will encourage

a blue tone etc. There is a lot of information about patinating metals online, I have even read that cat urine creates an interesting patina.....good luck collecting that chemical!

Once you have activated it takes a while for the oxidising to happen – usually overnight. Once you are happy with the finish you need to neutralise the acid and stop the reaction. You can use a solution of alkali like Bicarbonate of Soda and this will often impart a slightly darker tone to the material. There is also a neutraliser and sealer from Fleur Neutralizing Anti-Oxidant Top Coat.

For high traffic areas, where more chemicals such as acids from the skin or alcohol may come into contact with the surface, we use a flat varnish – I like the Fleur spray varnish which is interior/exterior and virtually invisible. You could experiment with others.

The second image shows some of the finishes we have achieved recently with these products.

**Have fun!!!**

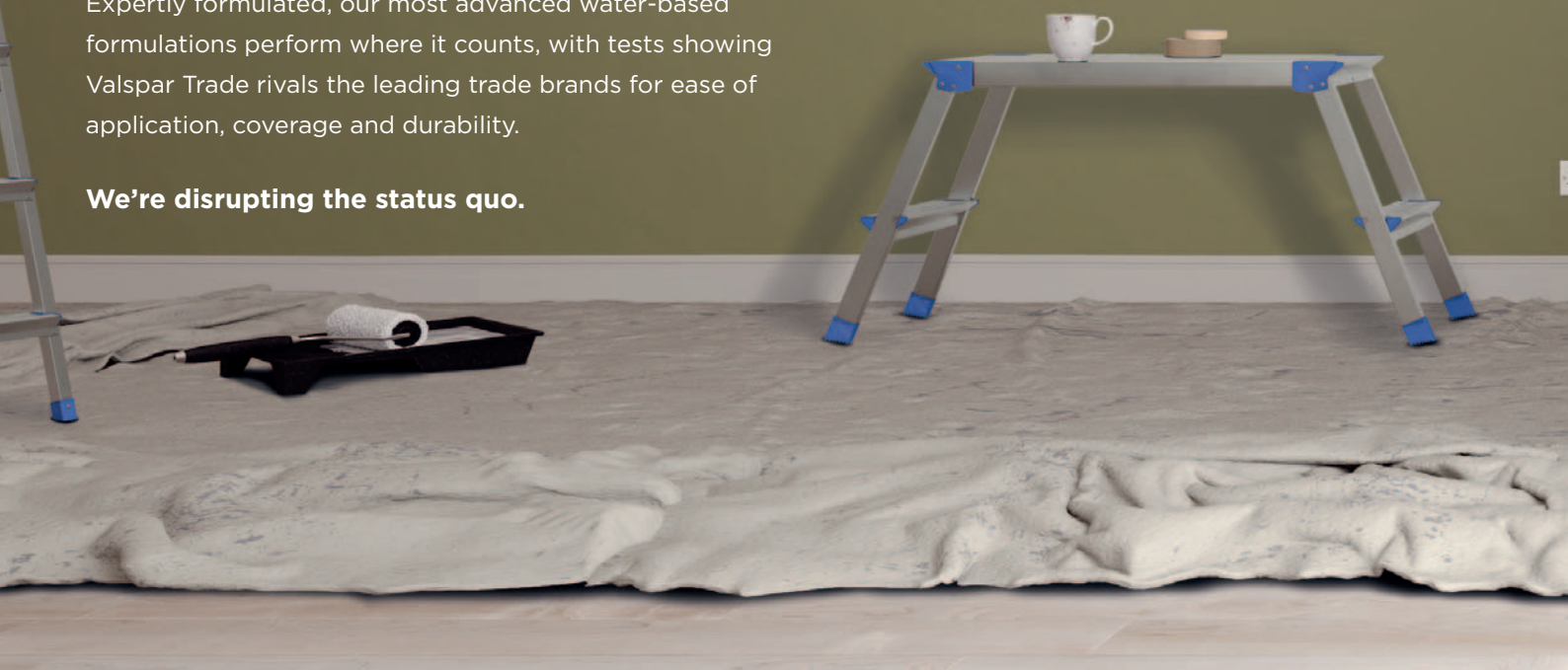


# GAME CHANGE

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# Crown Paints:

## *Autumn Winter 2022 Trend Report*

As the world moves  
on from the past  
few years of  
uncertainty, it isn't  
just our lives that  
have changed  
dramatically, our  
homes too.

We have become braver with the colour choices in our homes, moving away from safe and slightly muted spaces to breaking the boundaries and expressing ourselves in a more daring manner. We have also had to adapt our spaces to ensure they work for the modern-day way of living. With rapidly rising house prices throughout the UK, there is an increase in renters and multi-generational households. Home design needs to reflect these changes.

Moving into autumn/winter 2022, and with the growing concern of climate change, we are becoming more conscious of what we choose to buy. Upcycling, recycling, and repurposing will lead the way – not just in the interiors sector, but across the fashion and beauty industries too.

The colour palettes of the Crown autumn/winter 2022 trends are carefully considered to ensure they work for all occupants, whether homeowners or renters. Using paint can bring individual style and truly transform a living space.

### **Altered - Break the boundaries**

Altered is about being expressive, unpredictable, and breaking the boundaries from the traditional order.

Multicoloured and expressive, this trend attempts to invite playfulness into our



interiors with a revived 1970s colour palette of soft eclectic tones, which are sophisticated, yet fun! Combining the Avant-garde, through playful artwork and by painting areas that are often unexpected, this trend allows us to express our creativity through colour and explores unconventional ideas into interiors in a fun and creative way.

"We wanted to capture freedom of expression, the unconventional and breaking boundaries. Paint and colour are shown in unexpected places. We've purposely chosen to break free of room geometry and place

the focus on areas which are ordinarily ignored or an afterthought."

Kathryn Lloyd, Crown Colour Consultant

### **CONSCIOUS – An ethical and considered approach**

As consumer buying habits continue to have a more considered approach, Conscious aims to shine a light on the beauty that sustainable products and materials have to offer.

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from nature without wasting it, the theme of re-purposing is key to the Conscious trend. Inspired by natural materials such as cork, stone, reclaimed brick, sawdust and jute, these materials can all be repurposed and given a new life.

With the demand for more ethically sourced products, our buying choices have become more responsible and considerate as we demand more from the materials we buy. The neutral and earthy colour palettes evoke a feeling of calm and convey stability. This look can be introduced subtly with creams, light browns and greys or for a punchier look, bring in deep rich burgundy and purple tones.

“Inspired by moulded forms that stand out and integrate with the architecture of the interior, this collection of natural colours works with stripped back wood and patterned textiles to create spaces that make you relax. Simple yet sophisticated, these colours offer a way to interact with the materiality of individual components within the interior.”

Neville Knott, Crown Colour Specialist.

## DEFINE – Turning day into night

As we reinvent the areas of our home to accommodate multi-generational living, Define is taking charge of adapting our living spaces.

Offering a rich and warm colour palette, the sophisticated deep tones transform spaces into ambient cosy hideouts. Taking inspiration from high-end hotels, moody restaurant interiors and historical cinema rooms it is blurring the lines between day and night.

Define uses a combination of colours to create zones that adapt a space into multiple uses. Colour blocking is a tool for this. Deep rich colours dominate this palette, which pairs with metallic finishes and plush velvet accessories for a luxurious feel. Think Maximalist style on a minimalist design scheme.

“This colour palette is beautifully warm and with a touch of retro. All colours can be combined with each other and in this way, exciting light-dark colour effects can be achieved.

Perfect for designing rooms in multiple



colours, for emphasising individual living areas or for dividing rooms into different zones such as the home office, dining area and living room. In these cases, 'Define' provides a variety of options.”

Mareike Nacke, Crown Colour Consultant







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# Dulux Academy's HUB

**Dulux Academy has launched THE HUB: a flexible online platform where decorators can access their own personalised learning and networking experience 24/7.**

The portal will be made available to everyone that has taken part in an Academy course – be it in person at one of Dulux Academy's locations across the country, or an online free Dulux Academy Live workshop.

"The HUB was born as a result of this evolution in how the trade engages in training – it's been developed for the trade, by the trade. It is a market-first for the painting and decorating industry, and we're really proud to be the ones offering it," Vickie Mather, Dulux Academy Lead, AkzoNobel, explained.

A variety of training resources will be available, all designed to enhance skills across painting and decorating, from application and colour choices to business management. Everyone will be offered a unique experience tailored to them, with content recommended based on what they have previously engaged with.

Live Academy courses will be broadcast on The HUB, allowing users to interact and engage in real time. E-learning courses will also be made available, which users can complete in modules at their own pace and quiz themselves with test questions. Users can create their own learning plans, which allows them to review what they have completed and organise what they work on next. Once they have completed a course, users



unlock exclusive information and content to help further support their learning.

Users can also listen to podcasts from the Dulux Academy team about a range of industry topics, or watch instructional videos at a time and place convenient to them. All content is completely unlimited, so learners can revisit resources as often as required.

Content on The HUB is easily searchable, with it being categorised into five groups: Skill Level, Content Type, Topic, Rated, and Most Watched. Featured content can also be pinned for all learners for even greater ease of access.

The HUB prides itself on being highly personalised, with the option to add personal business logos and pictures to user profiles.

Alongside the launch of The HUB, Dulux

Academy will be introducing its new website. This site will house The HUB and offer new features of its own, developed using customer insights and feedback to ensure an improved experience for those purchasing Dulux Academy courses. This includes the ability to now search for courses by date, the improved visibility of facilities and their addresses, regular news updates on events and activities, and links to CITB Skills Funding.

Since the Dulux Academy's launch in 2016, it has welcomed over 12,500 painters and decorators eager to hone their craft and develop their skills. The Academy has also earned recognition from the British Coatings Federation, and has a strong relationship with a range of suppliers, such as Mirka, Graco, Tesa, Graham & Brown and Axus, giving attendees access to the latest and greatest tools on the market.

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# Valspar: a game changer

## *Valspar has revamped and extended its product range*

The new and improved Valspar Trade range has advanced water-based formulations that perform where it counts. Tests show that Valspar Trade rivals the leading trade brands on areas such as ease of application, coverage and durability. What's more, with the introduction of Vinyl Matt and a new exterior range, Valspar Trade's offer is much improved.

Part of the Sherwin-Williams family, Valspar Trade brings with it a long-standing and rich heritage of high-quality paint products and a superior colour offer. Its latest range has undergone rigorous ISO testing to prove it performs on the key areas important to the trade, such as application and splatter, coverage, scrubability, stain resistance and overall appearance.

New packaging completes the re-vamp, with a vibrant look designed for easy product identification in store. The range is available TradePoint at B&Q and is already on the shelves.

Key product developments include Valspar Trade's new exterior paint range: Masonry Smooth paint, Masonry Stabiliser and Exterior Direct to Wood



and Metal paint. With its innovative SeasonFlex™ technology, Valspar Trade's Masonry Smooth paint is able to be applied in temperatures as low as 2→C, helping to extend the painting season into colder months. It's also weather and dirt resistant, as well as showerproof in just 30 minutes. All exterior paints are available in either a ready mixed or

tintable formula.

Moving indoors, in addition to the refreshed Tough Matt emulsion – the product of choice for durability, stain resistance and covering power - Valspar Trade is pleased to introduce Vinyl Matt to its interior walls and ceiling range. Providing high opacity, with up to 16m2 of coverage per litre, and low odour and

VOCs, Vinyl Matt is available in five or ten litre tins in white.

Valspar Trade's Wood and Metal paint range has been renamed to Acrylic Wood and Metal and has also been extended, with new wood and metal primers. Quick drying and providing strong adhesion, they're ideal for achieving that perfect finish.

Speaking about the launch, Charlotte Radford, Senior Product Manager at Sherwin-Williams, said: "We're delighted to bring to market a new and improved Valspar Trade range, which offers professionals another credible option when they're seeking a trade paint that achieves high quality results.

"In addition to product performance, by choosing Valspar Trade, tradesmen and their customers also benefit from our unrivalled colour offering. In addition to the 2,000 pre-selected colours, our colour-matching technology is like no other – we can colour match to 2.2 million colours. If the human eye can see it, then we can mix it!"



For more information, please visit:  
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# Women in Decorating: *The Past, Present and Future*

Did you know  
just 4.8% of  
workers are  
women in the  
painting and  
decorating  
sector?



In this article, painting and decorating contractor Bagnalls has interviewed five women in different roles at the company to discuss their experiences, challenges and wins within the sector.

Ranging from senior management roles to trainees, five Bagnalls employees have provided unique insights into working in the painting and decorating sector ...

## **What attracted you to the painting and decorating industry?**

Abi: I've never been much of a fan of sitting behind a desk or working in retail. When I left school, I wanted something more active and engaging, so an apprenticeship fit the bill perfectly.

Joanne: Having worked in marketing for some time, I was approached by an ex-Managing Director of mine who was doing some consultancy work for Bagnalls. He said they were looking for a specialist in Marketing and asked if I would like to be considered for the post. I didn't even realise until I did my background research for the job that Bagnalls was a national painting contractor and undertook such huge contracts!

Once I met Stephen, our Group Managing Director, and had several interviews with him, I knew that having a career with Bagnalls would be amazing. I set my sights high even before joining the company, telling Stephen that I wanted to join the board eventually.

Jane: When I was younger, I used to help my mum do the decorating at home and I always had her influence growing up. One day at school, we had a talk from someone about apprenticeships in the sector and it seemed a very natural way to go. Here I am, over 30 years later!

Katie: I've always been interested in the property market and architecture. Whilst renovating my own property I took a very hands-on approach to managing the works, hiring contractors, and scheduling the stages of the project myself and found I enjoyed the process. When I saw a job advert on LinkedIn, I decided to apply as I had some relevant experience and skills, which led me to my career at Bagnalls.

Becky: My Dad worked in the quarry sector, and growing up I always found it interesting, so it was a logical progression for me to start my career there. As I spent more time in the

quarrying industry, I began to step away from operation activities and moved into the environmental and safety management side of the business. When I moved to Bagnalls, it seemed an organic evolution of the steps I had been taking in my career to embark on a role that included Safety, Health, Environmental and Quality Management.

## **What's the biggest lesson you have learnt or challenge you have overcome during your career?**

Abi: For me, adjusting to the pandemic and a completely new way of work was a struggle in the beginning. We're always strict with hygiene and health and safety, but the pandemic required bringing that to a whole new level and fundamentally changing the way we operate day-to-day. I like having a routine – so having it thrown off during those first few months was strange and took some adjusting to, but I overcame it and I'm now used to our new processes of work.

Joanne: An important lesson I learnt is that you can do it – but that does not mean you have to do it alone. My colleagues at all levels are so supportive and there are times I need to ask for their support and engagement to do the best I can in my job. I

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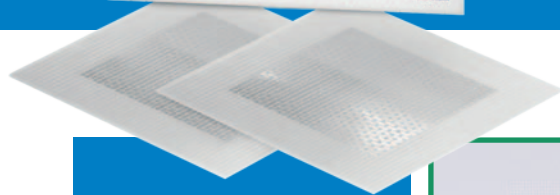
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often take on too much for my own good; but I know when asked, a colleague will help me achieve my goals and vice versa. 2020 was no doubt a major challenge for many businesses, but again I was so proud of the way we pulled together and adapted to the ever-changing environment as a team.

When it comes to challenges in my career, there have been a few, I started work in 1990 when the same standards of equality and behaviour applied in the workplace today were quite different. This ranged from lewd comments and subtle remarks about women being successful. However, in all the roles I have had I have persevered and proven my worth and as such, I have been recognised and rewarded. At Bagnalls I have completed an MA, been promoted, and had a daughter; challenges are just hurdles to be overcome.

Jane: For me, a large part of the learning curve has been understanding how to work with different people and find ways to achieve what's needed as a team. There have also been plenty of career highlights in terms of ambitious projects we've taken on, such as working 24 hours at a time to get an entire ballroom painted in 5 days; these projects are hard work but also incredibly rewarding.

Katie: Entering into a new role with no past experience in the sector was a challenge for me, although a welcome one. There is a noticeable lack of women in the painting and decorating industry, and I occasionally receive sweeping statements or surprised reactions when people find out that a woman will be managing their project, however, I prove with time on the job what I am capable of.

Becky: The biggest challenge during my time here was joining Bagnalls at the start of the coronavirus pandemic. The result of the virus outbreak was that our standard project schedules and methods of work were turned completely upside down. I have learned a lot about taking things one day at a time and ensuring that all the decisions we made continued to place the safety of our staff and customers as a priority.

**What advice would you give to women currently looking to join the painting and decorating industry?**

Abi: You'll need thick skin sometimes in such



a male-dominated industry – but do it. Having said that, the people at my current role in Bagnalls have been lovely and even though I'm often the only woman in a given situation, I'm rarely made to feel excluded or like I'm facing any prejudice. My overlying experience within the industry has been extremely rewarding and given me so many incredible opportunities that I don't regret it at all. In short, just go for it – we need more women in painting and decorating!

Joanne: Don't pre-judge what opportunities there are in any industry sector. The painting industry is so vast – from working with major blue-chip companies such as Akzo Nobel (Dulux) through to small scaffold companies, the roles for women are vast. Bagnalls is absolute proof that there are so many opportunities for women and no role is off-limits, from being a painter on-site to a Main Board Director. Regardless of whether you start as an apprentice, school leaver or

graduate, this is an industry where, with the right training and development, you can become the supervisors, managers and even directors of the future.

Jane: Get stuck in! Don't be afraid to take opportunities as they come – understand what you want to achieve and grab it with both hands. There are so many great possibilities for people to join the sector regardless of age and gender; seize them!

Katie: Be yourself and always strive to be the best you can be. Stay up to date with the latest qualifications, industry standards and management skills as the time you invest in these will be invaluable. At the same time stay one step ahead and don't shy away from opportunities as they arise; remember that everyone is human and it's okay to make mistakes as you learn.

Becky: Be confident, believe in yourself and never be afraid to ask questions.



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# Mirka's Performance and versatility

## *makes prep work easier for decorators*

The Mirka® LEROS, which weighs in at less than 3.5kg, has a lightweight ergonomic design that ensures the tool is balanced, no matter the angle at which it is used, and leads to less strain on the body and back of the user. The tool's random orbital movement responds to the operator's movements, so the sanding process is made easier, while the brushless motor technology ensures a constant speed with no loss in efficiency under heavy pressure and load.

The LEROS has a dual voltage feature. This makes the tool suitable for use on both residential sites as well as building sites, which use 110v to power the electric tools on site.

The LEROS-S combines the best-in-class features of the original LEROS in a compact set-up that makes sanding in confined spaces easier. In addition, its two dedicated grip points enable full control of the tool, so it is easy to handle, whether it is being used on a wall or ceiling.

When the Mirka® LEROS and Mirka® LEROS-S are combined with Mirka's dust-free net abrasives and suitable dust extraction, they provide the user with virtually dust-free sanding. There are dual suction points for dust removal, so the work environment is cleaner and healthier for both the customer and user. In addition, maintenance of the tool is minimised as there are no carbon brushes to be changed.

Other tools include the ergonomic and innovative Mirka® DEOS Delta, which



Focusing on performance and versatility, Mirka's growing product portfolio continues to put the user experience first, as they have been designed and developed from the ground up to handle the demands of decorators and the challenging surfaces they face.

has an iron shape design that allows users to access hard to reach areas easily and efficiently. The Mirka DEOS has a low-profile design that allows the user to get closer to the surface and ensures a consistent smooth finish.

Complementing the tools is the versatile Abranet® abrasive range, which can be used for sanding multiple applications including fillers, primers, lacquers and composite materials. It delivers a virtually dust-free work environment

when employed with suitable dust extraction. The abrasive's hard-wearing surface also offers a faster process and prevents the disc from rapid or premature wear, which leads to a lifespan that is 10 to 15 times longer than traditional abrasives.

Chris Proffit, Mirka UK's business sector manager for construction and decoration, says, "As a business our R&D team is develops tools and abrasives that meet the constantly changing demands of users. We believe that our tools provide users with the ability to handle any job easily, efficiently and in a dust-free environment

Mirka UK will be showcasing a selection of tools headlined by the Mirka® LEROS and Mirka® LEROS-S, at the P&D Show 2022 on stands 67 and 88.



the varnish experts

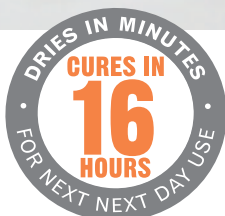


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# Bust the jargon

## *with Bradite*

Maybe you should take a closer look at what's in a coating to ensure it's the right product for the job



As the building and decorating trades are hit by across-the-board price increases, it might be tempting to try and cut costs by selecting cheaper products. But this can have a detrimental effect on the quality of the finished job. So, what should you look for when selecting a product and just what does all the technical jargon boil down to?

"Here at Bradite, we take both aesthetic and protective issues into account when designing our products, says Marcus Cosgrove Technical Director at the company. "Our water-based formulations include pigments, specialist binders, extenders, thickeners and additives ".

Water-based paints are virtually odourless and dry incredibly fast.

Extenders are used to control properties such as mudcrack resistance, scrub resistance, sheen or gloss, colour and opacity.

Specialist, high quality binders are of crucial importance in making sure the paint sticks to what you are painting. You need to choose the appropriate product for the substrate you are painting and the conditions it is likely to encounter.

### **Cost savings**

Bradite paints are tough and durable. This is a key consideration as it means redecoration cycles can be much longer, which saves on costs for the client. There are three levels of binders in use: commodity binders, high-performance binders and crosslinking acrylics.

A commodity binder sticks the particles in the paint together adequately but can break down in time, whilst a high-quality binder conjoins them much more tightly. If you were scrubbing a painted surface, with a commodity binder you might do 100 scrubs before you break the film down. But with a high-performance binder, you could do 2,000 – 3,000 scrubs before you see any sort of damage.

The binder technology used in our One Can range is ambient crosslinking acrylics. Once this binder is applied, there is a further chemical reaction that takes place on the substrate, so adhesion becomes stronger – up to an additional 10,000 scrubs.

Such products will stick to almost any



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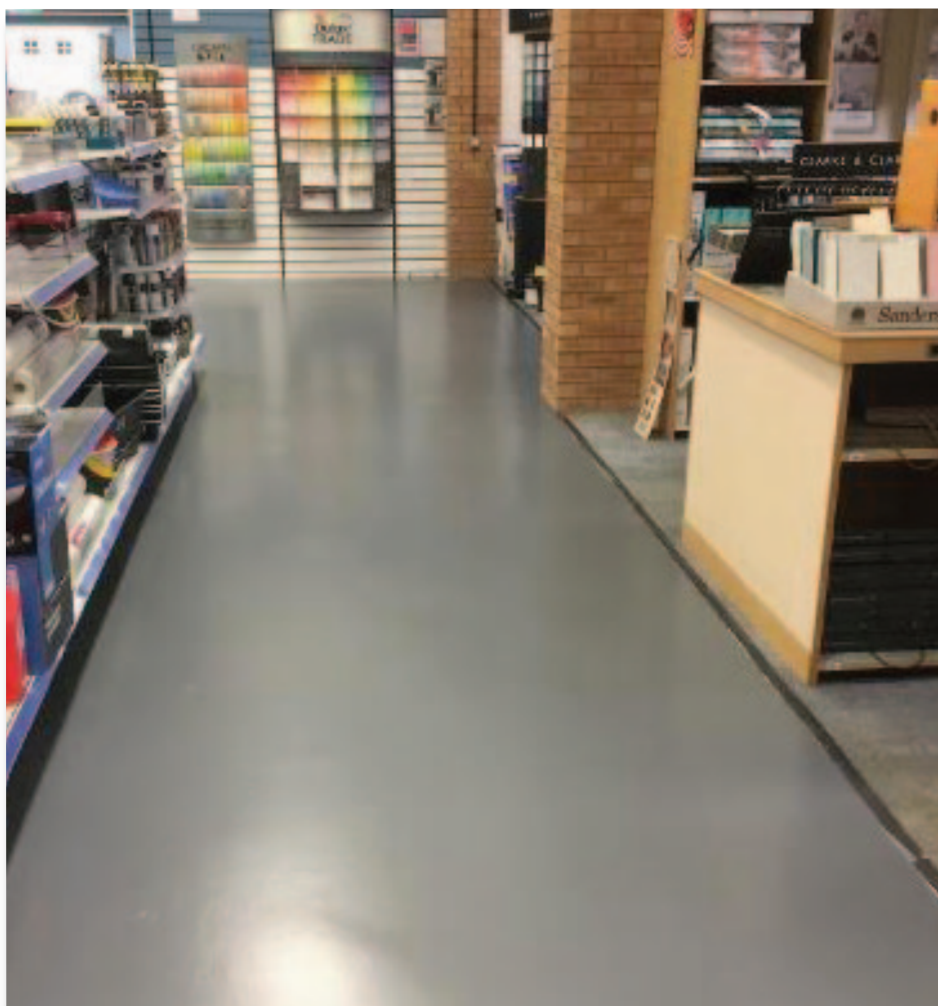


substrate, including potentially difficult surfaces like glass and ceramics. One specific test carried out with One Can Eggshell was to paint on PVC and wood panels which were then immersed in water for two years. The panels were still in very good condition when they emerged.

Due to this crosslinking technology, our products combine toughness with quick-drying abilities with no compromise. One Can dries within 30 minutes and is re-coatable within an hour, the chosen paint colour has no effect on durability.

Paint coverage is usually between 12 and 14 square metres per litre, but what is crucial is how the paint performs once it's applied, and this is where Bradite products score highly. Whether you're using the versatile One Can Matt or Eggshell, Floor-It (which handles tarmac and asphalt surfaces) or Roadline Paint (for use on roads, runways, car parks and sports surfaces), the Bradite range provides a high-quality, durable finish.

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# Nature gives life to AkzoNobel's Colour of the Year 2023



**Wild Wonder – a hue inspired by the warm tones of harvested crops – is AkzoNobel's Colour of the Year 2023. Its upbeat glow connects us with nature, creating a sense of energy and positivity.**

As people search for support, connection, inspiration and balance in the world today, they're diving into the wonders of the natural world to find it. Research conducted by a team of in-house paints and coatings colour specialists and international design professionals found hope at the heart of global social, design and consumer trends.

"Wild Wonder speaks to us in a language we

instinctively understand," says Heleen van Gent, Creative Director of AkzoNobel's Global Aesthetic Centre. "Nature is what inspires us and makes us feel better in our lives and in our homes. That's why, for the first time in 20 years, our entire colour palette is inspired by the rhythms of nature."

Four decorative paint colour palettes have been designed around Wild Wonder: Lush Colours (the forest hues), Buzz Colours (meadow brights), Raw Colours (harvest shades) and Flow Colours (seashore tones). For consumers personalizing their homes and urban environments, the palettes provide direction to choose wall colours for a timeless look that's also bang on trend.

"Our research insights are also invaluable for industrial customers looking for the perfect finish," says Michael Friede, Chief Commercial Officer for Performance Coatings. "We develop market-specific offerings based in colour and materials research and market analysis. I'm especially excited to share this

bold, nature-infused colour story with our customers. It's what we're all about: People. Planet. Paint."

Colour of the Year is the spark of inspiration that ignites a long-term design partnership with industrial coatings customers. On-trend colours, textures and special effects have been designed for the aerospace, automotive, consumer electronics, metal furniture, lighting, cabinetry, flooring, building products and architecture markets, as well as decorative paints. Using digital tools such as the AkzoNobel Design app, coatings experts and customers work together to create the best finish for their products.

The year 2023 brings two milestones to the Global Aesthetic Centre. Its ColourFutures trend forecast will celebrate its 20th anniversary, while the team also reaches three decades of trend analysis, colour research, colour design and art direction at AkzoNobel.

A man wearing a white polo shirt, safety glasses, a white face mask, and grey gloves is kneeling and using a Mirka LEROS-S orbital sander on a light-colored wall. The sander is black and yellow. A yellow line is visible on the floor.

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# Werner Height and Linking Platform



This lightweight and versatile aluminium platform offers users the benefit of both height adjustability and working length extension..

Thanks to its design consisting of both adjustable legs and Quick Link technology, the Werner Adjustable Height & Linking Pro Platform provides a working height of up to 0.76m via 10 height adjustments. This allows users to reach up to 2.7m; and the ability to connect two or more platforms for a longer working surface, with no tools required.

The extra-large 1.17m x 0.36m platform provides a broad standing space which allows the user plenty of room to manoeuvre safely while working, and thanks to the linking element, there is the

ability to double, triple or even quadruple the working space. Featuring wide feet, which offer stability without the need for manual adjustment, the height adjustability and non-marring plastic bumpers allow for the platform to be used on uneven ground and stairs, without damaging finished surfaces.

Kris Hallee, Head of Product Development at Werner, said: "Ongoing innovation, and ensuring that our products are continuously designed to be safer and easier to use is our number one goal; and we believe we have achieved exactly that with the Adjustable Height & Linking Pro Platform.

Equipped with a range of features designed for user convenience, the new

platform is quick to set up, with a one-handed lock which allows users to spend minimal time assembling equipment. When it comes to connecting additional platforms if a wider working space is needed, this is simply achieved by extending the linking hooks and clicking the platform into place.

The platform weighs less than 10kg, combined with the wide opening Easy-Grab handle and compact legs which fold completely flat, make it comfortable to carry in one hand and move from job to job. It has a 136kg load capacity.

To find out more about the Werner Adjustable Height & Linking Pro Platform visit [www.wernerco.co.uk](http://www.wernerco.co.uk)



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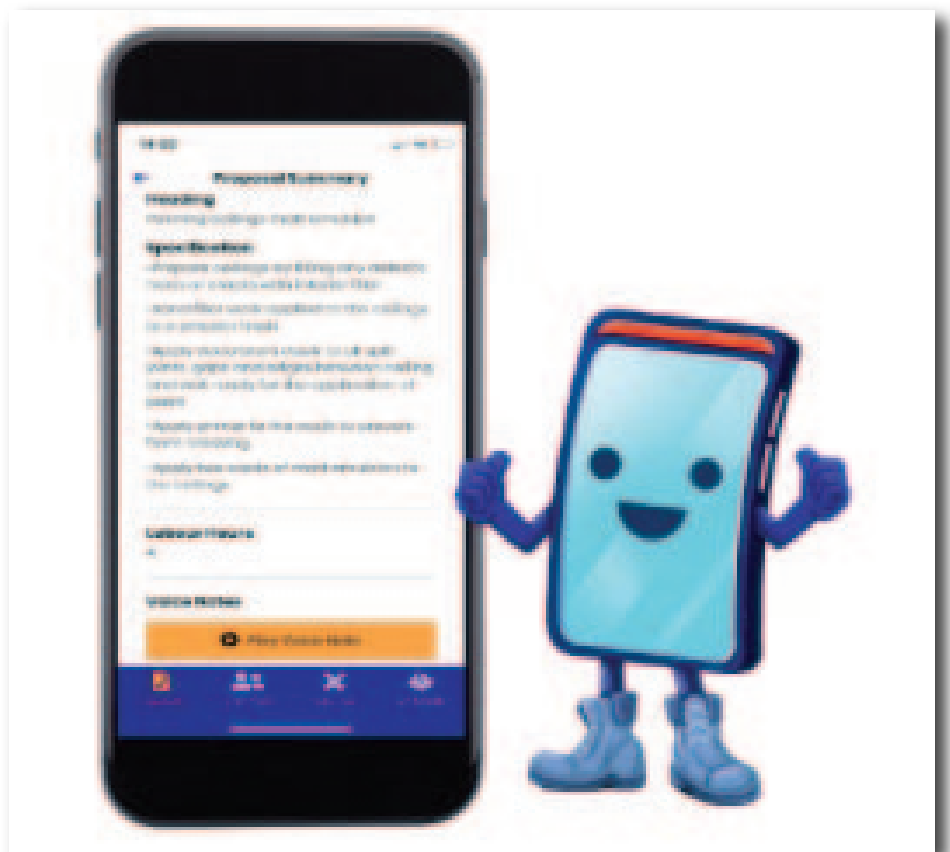
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copywriters, so it's built on personal experiences of what decorators and their customers want and need for a smooth working relationship.

- \* There are of hundreds of pre-written specifications designed to provide clarity on the job in hand, plus professionally-written cover letters to win work and install confidence. You'll have no further need to be on your own computer half the night! AppyQuote is the only system that uses professional copywriters to create communications for decorators.
- \* That professional quality of all AppyQuote content helps tradespeople match the office-standard communication that your customers expect.
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What our delighted customers are saying:

### How AppyQuote came about

JAMIE MINITRIM'S STORY: Jamie has run a busy decorating business since 2005 and has been a decorator for over 20 years. In 2009 he was drained. He put so much effort into seeing prospective clients, but it wasn't translating into enough work.

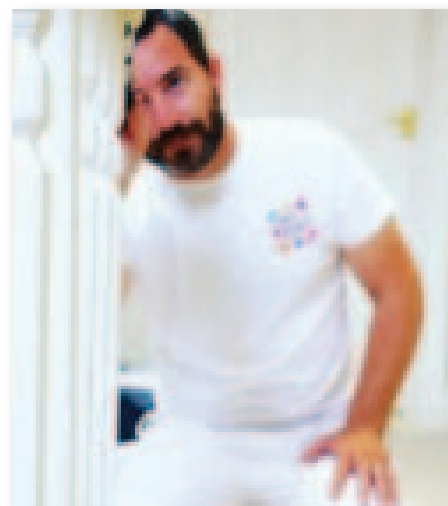
"Never one for words, I struggled

working on the laptop late at night, sending out quotes riddled with spelling mistakes," he remembers. "I was overwhelmed and disheartened. I felt substandard quotes were losing me work."

Jamie knew he needed help, so started looking for a communications expert who could write the suitable words for him. He found a professional copywriter who created a new quote template, supported by a bespoke sales letter that set out all the reasons why a client should use his services.

"I learned that jobs can be secured by having a simplified quote, yet one that is still comprehensive. People want to know exactly what they are paying for, such as initial preparation, sanding, priming, undercoat, two coats of gloss and the time and labour involved," he says.

"What they don't want is a rough figure scrawled on a scruffy piece of paper. It's unprofessional and can lead to confusion



on

all sides."

Armed with plenty of advice and a simple quoting system to outline each step, Jamie started sending out quotes with a sense of ease and excitement. He's a happy man now as his take-up rate soared by 40 per cent and his paperwork more than halved!

You can contact Jamie here – [Jamie@appyquote.com](mailto:Jamie@appyquote.com)

As an alternative to the above feedback images.

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# How to make your *Decorating Business Green*



**If you're looking for a way to grow your decorating business, then going green could be the way to go. Over the last few years, environmental and sustainability issues have gone from being a concern of the few to a worry of the many.**

A recent UK Gov survey revealed that 90% of consumers wanted companies to be more environmentally friendly and that 4 out of 5 people are likely to choose a brand with a positive approach

to sustainability. A Co-Op report from late 2019 reported that the UK's green economy was worth over £40bn, rising four-fold since the millennium.

The trend for green consumerism is growing, and decorators who can show their green credentials can steal a march on their competitors and grow their decorating business. The big question is, how?

In this article, John Palmer, founder of Decorators' Forum's insurance partner, Coversure Poole, outlines some of the ways painting and decorating firms can go green and grow.

## **Get An Electric Van**

One of the easiest ways for a decorating business to go green is to switch to an electric vehicle or EV. Not so long along,

the EVs were limited to milk floats and work lights and were about as practical. These days, thanks to demand from consumers for cleaner vehicles and governments forced to clean up their air, manufacturers including Ford, Nissan, Mercedes and Renault are developing electric vans.

This change will gift users of commercial vehicles significant benefits, including:

- Lower running costs – the Department of Transport estimates that the cost of charging a standard electric van such as a Nissan e-NV2000 is around £1.50, and on that, you'll be able to drive for about 100 miles. Depending on what you are paying for diesel, it would cost you somewhere in the region of £12 to do the same. That's a saving that will soon mount up



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- Greater reliability – compared to a traditionally powered vehicle, EVs are simple machines and have greater levels of reliability. The less time your van is in for repair, the more time it can be earning you money
- Greater access – road charging for polluting vehicles is becoming more widespread. London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) will cost you £12 to enter on top of the congestion charge. With more such zones being planned and with many having exemptions for zero-emission vehicles
- Lower insurance premiums – thanks to their simplicity and reliability, repair costs tend to be lower, and that could mean cheaper van insurance quotes
- A green brand message – as a decorator, your vehicle isn't just your mode of transport; it's a mobile advert. Being seen to be green by driving an electric van will boost your business's green brand credentials and get you more work

## Energy Efficient Appliances

Hot air guns, sprayers and electric wallpaper streamers are all tools of your trade and they can all be heavy on power usage. New models from brands like Porter-Cable, de Walt, and Wagner promise greater efficiency, which can reduce your business's carbon footprint and lower power costs to customers.

## Switch to Low Emission Paints/Primers

Low volatile organic compounds (VOC) paints and primers are becoming more readily available. High levels of VOC solvents contribute to the formation of pollution and reduce indoor air quality – something that's not great for customers, especially if they are one of the 13m in the UK who have breathing difficulties. While there's a lot of talk in the trade about them being difficult to work with, manufacturers such as Dulux offer support and advice on getting the best from them. Teknos have a great range of low VOC paints.

## Carbon Offset

Once something only available to large corporations, carbon offset has become popular with businesses of all shapes and sizes. Prices range from £1-£50 a tonne, depending on what you're looking to achieve. For many small businesses, this is a great way of becoming carbon neutral quickly without having to ditch the diesel and only use eco-friendly products.

## Green Is The New Black

As we can see, there are plenty of reasons to go green and plenty of easy ways to begin making the change. As climate change continues to take effect, more and more consumers will be looking for decorators with green credentials, and those that can walk the walk could be laughing all the way to the bank.

*John Palmer*

Founder Coversure Poole Insurance Services Group

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# Not on the tools - *£137k worth of tools stolen everyday across the UK*



Research by property maintenance solution provider, Help me Fix, has revealed that on average 81 tradesmen per day will have tools stolen.

Over the last two years, almost 59,000 offences involving the theft of tools were reported across the UK, with the value of the items stolen totalling a huge £100.3m.

That means that each and every day, 81 cases are reported and with each theft seeing the average tradesmen some £1,705 in the red when replacing their tools. That's a total daily loss of £137,438.

So what can you do to prevent it? Help me Fix have put together six top tips.

## **Storing tools correctly**

Of course, the most obvious is to take your tools home with you as the majority of thefts will be down to tools being left in less secure workplaces or vehicles overnight.

However, it's not always feasible to bring larger items home from your place of work, or to clear your van at the end of a long working day. But at the very least, it pays to store the most valuable items you own in the safest place possible.

Displaying a sign that states no tools are left in your vehicle overnight can also be a smart move. You may use it to call a thief's bluff but it can also prevent expensive damage from attempted break ins, even if no tools are stolen.

## **Prevention parking**

This not only applies to how you park, but also where. Parking with rear or side doors tight to a sturdy fence or wall can make it much harder for thieves to operate successfully.

However, parking in busy public areas

during the day, or well lit locations at night can also be a deterrent, as can parking in an area with visible CCTV cameras.

## **Making your mark**

If the worst does happen, it's vital to have some sort of identifying mark on your tools in the event that they are recovered. This can be in the form of a unique code or company name and can be written or painted on. Using a UV pen is a good way to ensure your personal markings aren't removed by said thief, but the most concrete method is to have your details etched into your tools.

You should also join a register such as Immobilise or SelectDNA which could help return your tools wherever they end up across the UK.

  
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## Make a record

Record all the serial numbers of the tools you purchase. It may seem a little time consuming but it could save you a considerable sum of money further down the line.

## Track high value items

Big ticket items such as construction vehicles in particular are popular targets for criminals and as they cost thousands of pounds to replace which often come with GPS tracking systems built into them. However, you can replicate this safety measure with your smaller items by fitting smaller portable GPS trackers, such as Air Tags, which you can then track using your Smartphone.

## Get insured

It may seem like a straightforward tip, but should the worst happen and you can't retrieve your stolen tools, you can at least replace them at a minimal cost. Always keep receipts and photos of each tool as this will massively streamline the process of an insurance claim.



Ettan Bazil, CEO and Founder of Help me Fix said: "It's always heartbreaking when a tradesperson wakes up to their tools being stolen and their van broken into. More than the cost of the items, it's the fact that they can't work while they have no tools. Luckily there are some fantastic schemes out there that can help tradespeople in their time of need, such as the "Tool Angel" service by

Williams & Co."

Williams Managing Director Ray Stafford says: "Sadly, we can't stop them from stealing your tools, but we can contribute to damage limitation by making sure that you don't suffer the double whammy of stolen tools and being unable to work."

see <https://www.williams.uk.com/tool-angel/> for more details.

An advertisement for Liberon woodcare products. On the left, a large, detailed image of a paintbrush with dark bristles and a silver ferrule is shown applying a dark stain to a wooden surface. In the center, the Liberon logo is displayed above the text "WOODCARE EXPERTS SINCE 1912". Below the logo, five tins of Liberon products are arranged: Palette Wood Dye, Spirit Wood Dye, Finishing Oil, Superior Danish Oil, and Pure Tung Oil. A small tin of Wax Polish Black Bison is also visible in front of the others. The background is a light wood grain. The text "Accomplish beautiful things" is written in a large, white, serif font on the left side of the image.

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# Brewers *brief*

## Airless v HVLP Spray Machines

Brewers are here for you to provide advice about spray painting to help you achieve the perfect finish. Here are some key differences between airless and HVLP spraying

### Airless Spraying

In an airless system, fluid is pumped under high pressure through a spray tip of a size suited to the paint material thickness. It is the tip size and airless pump pressure which determines the paint material flow rate. The material is then fed through the tip of the gun, atomising the material and forming the spray fan.

#### Features:

- Requires extra preparation in terms of masking
- You can spray a room approximately 50m<sup>2</sup> in under 20 minutes using a cross hatch method, which applies the equivalent of 3 roller coats.
- The gun tip and pump size dictates what you can spray, so one unit can spray a multitude of products. All you need is the appropriate tip for the job.

#### Benefits:

- Airless spraying can be up to 10 times faster than brush.
- It can also be up to 4 times faster than roller application.
- Ability to spray thicker material.
- Material sprayed direct from can, no need to transfer and less thinning.

### HVLP Spraying

High Volume Low Pressure (HVLP) differs from airless spray as it uses air to disperse the material instead of a motor and piston, utilizing a turbine to produce a constant flow of air rather than a compressor to fill a tank of reserved air.

#### Features:

- The constant flow of air allows for a more even/constant atomisation of the product and the amount of overspray/mist is dramatically reduced with transfer rates of between 90-95 % achievable.
- Turbines are rated in stages, from 1 to a maximum of 5. The minimum we would recommend for decorators to achieve a professional finish is a 3-stage turbine. The higher the stage the higher the air flow rate, aiding the atomisation of the paint, less product preparation with the ability to apply thicker materials and makes the unit run quieter.
- The gun can be adjusted to alter the fan width and the amount of product being delivered so you can go from around an 8-inch fan for larger areas down to a strip about the width of a 5 pence piece for edges and details.

#### Benefits:

- Faster application than conventional brush and roller techniques.
- Superior finish.
- Reduced overspray/mist.
- Ability to adapt your spray pattern using the controls on the gun.
- The gun can be emptied and cleaned in approx. 5 minutes.
- Ability to spray a multitude of products.
- Reduced prep time due to the control available from the gun and reduced overspray.
- Can apply a wide range of materials from stains to primers, lacquers to eggshell, even latex and epoxies.



# Axis Decor



At this year's National Painting & Decorating Show, Axis Decor's product experts will navigate you through their diverse range of tools and accessories.

The range includes surface protection, workwear, abrasives, removal tools, substrate repair tools, brushes, rollers, and other accessories.

Each category contains some innovations. The most recent is their brand new Silk Touch roller sleeves. Made with fibres finer than silk, they leave almost no texture on walls and ceilings. The fine fibres pick up a large amount of paint (unusual for a finishing roller), so you'll cover surfaces rapidly and still achieve an extra-smooth finish. Another new product is the Captain Chunk Wide Roller Frame. It adjusts to hold 12"-18" wide rollers and secures them with a twist lock. Robust and lightweight, its aluminium-polypropylene construction is also solvent-resistant and easy to clean. Axis Decor's display this year promises to be its biggest yet. So don't miss Stand 29!



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# Wondertex creates luxury apartments at iconic Liverpool warehouse



Wondertex prem fill & finish has been used to create 540 exceptional apartments at the iconic Tobacco Warehouse in Liverpool

## Background

The grade two-listed, 14 storey building was built in 1901 and was thought to be the largest warehouse the world had ever seen – a huge achievement for a thriving city at the heart of global trade.

After falling into disrepair, the Tobacco Warehouse has been given a new lease of life and is now home to 540 exceptional waterfront apartments.

## The Challenge

The team working at this exciting location includes main contractor Abercorn

Construction and architect Darmody Architecture. The team at Abercorn Construction were responsible for installing and finishing the walls and ceilings across a 150,000sqm area. With time of the essence and a durable and smooth finish essential in preparation for decorating, Abercorn Construction chose to use Wondertex prem fill & finish.

## The Solution

With over 50 years experience in supplying dryliners and decorators with expert solutions, Wondertex prem fill & finish was the chosen product to ready the walls and



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ceilings for decorating these beautiful and luxurious apartments.

Wondertex prem fill & finish is a filler and smoother, designed for filling and finishing plasterboard joints, smoothing unwanted textured surfaces as well as repairing any accidental damage, snagging or channelling work.

Available in two sizes, prem fill & finish boasts an extremely smooth texture which allows the product to glide easily into joints – making light work of even the largest of

projects, such as this one.

Prem fill & finish has a 60 minute working time, is effortless to sand – there's no elbow grease required here – and has minimal shrinkage so you can be assured that once applied, prem fill & finish will stay put and will not crack and come out of the joints.

Once applied and fully dried, the walls and ceilings were painted with Dulux paint.

## Results

The project was completed on time and

residents are now able to move in and enjoy Titanic-sized warehouse homes at the heart of Merseyside's historic docks.

To find out more about Wondertex and their drylining and decorating solutions, please visit [Wondertex.co.uk](http://Wondertex.co.uk) or contact their team of experts by calling +44 (0) 1827 254461 or emailing [wondertex@instarmac.co.uk](mailto:wondertex@instarmac.co.uk)

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# Trends for *Winter 2022 & 2023*

We collaborated with seven experts across various fields to predict the next big interiors and architecture trends for 2022 and 2023, also giving advice on ways homeowners can incorporate these trends into their own properties.

Here at Duplus we have seen an increased number of visitors, from new build enquiries to property renovators, looking to improve the lighting and space in their homes, and several of the predicted trends emphasize these growing desires

According to the experts, there are several notable trends taking shape this Winter.

## **Biophilic design**

Since the pandemic, we've seen people becoming more drawn to the outdoors. In the next season we will definitely continue to see nods to nature and natural design in interiors, including organic shapes, houseplants, and nature-inspired colours, such as rust and burnt orange (which always have a revival around autumn), as well as other earth tones and greens of various shades. We'll see people move away from grey, using navy and greens as base colours instead. Whilst green can be daunting to many, it naturally complements neutral shades of white, grey, or beige so it's an easy colour to include in your design without standing out too much. With many shades to choose from – from mint, olive, pistachio, forest green, and emerald – greens are the perfect option for many this A/W. The Pinterest Predicts 2022 report mentioned "vertical wall gardens or free-hanging ferns", but a biophilic design can be easily created by lining rooms with plants (both real and artificial).

## **Gothic influences**

Gothic influences will likely inspire our home and interiors, with moody paint colours,



spooky ornaments and furnishings, and even black house exteriors expected to be on the rise. According to Pinterest Predicts 2022, searches for "goth kitchen décor" was +85%, so we can also expect to see this trend across table settings and kitchen appliances.

## **Art deco bathrooms**

Art deco is predicted to be a key trend this autumn winter, particularly so for bathrooms, and you can make a big statement with just a few key pieces. We'll start to see the modern, straight lines found on a lot of popular designs in the last few years (like shower screens) replaced by wonderful art deco arches. Fluted glass is a really easy way to incorporate the trend and is perfect on furniture or within internal doors. Tiles will be eye-catching patterns and brass is increasing in popularity when it comes to fixtures and fittings.

## **Pearlcore**

We will see more homeowners embrace iridescent accents in their homes. Alongside plants and succulents associated with the aforementioned biophilic design, we can also expect greenery to be paired with strings of pearls, for an alternative look. Pinterest Predicts 2022 recommended pearl floor tiles, or sateen-finished or pearl-toned wall paint, alongside "mother-of-pearl photo

frames, pearl-embellished serving trays and beaded décor pillows".

Boucle – a nubby textile made from a yarn of curled fibres – will be everywhere this winter. From sofas, chaise lounges, and footstools, to dining sets, ottomans and even beds, this cosy material will likely remain in style for some time longer. However, we may see it adapt from dreamy whites and light neutrals to also incorporate deeper or more colourful shades.

## **Curves**

There is a growing demand for curved furniture – such as curved sofas and kitchen peninsulas and islands – as well as trends featuring arches in doorways, bookcases, and windows, and based on the rise in Pinterest searches, curvy lines will still be going strong into A/W (and possibly into 2023 too). We might also see this within lighting, with spheres, hoops, discs, pebbles, and bubbles popping up in lighting designs. Pinterest Predicts 2022 stated that "Boomers, Gen X, and millennials are driving the searches behind this well-rounded home trend", and so there seems to be no signs of this trend slowing down.

## **Checks and chequered patterns**

As clients are looking to bring personality to

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their homes, checked patterns are also making a triumphal return this year. From rugs to funky flooring, oversized chequers with an exaggerated aesthetic are key to pulling off this trend. Pinterest Predicts 2022 stated that “millennials and boomers in particular are driving this chequered trend”, and suggests choosing items across “blankets, rugs or bedding”.

### Structured architectural lighting

Structured architectural lighting, almost art installation-like pieces, are also rising in popularity. Playing off the intersection of art and technology, architectural lighting seeks to combine design and function. However, to get the best results in your home, you'll likely need to mix and match the four primary types of lighting (ambient, task, accent, and decorative).

### Darker doors and window frames

According to the experts, people are also tending to go for more grey and darker colours with their window and door choices. Darker colours – such as anthracite, navy, browns, bronze, or even black – create contrast and structure, making a bold statement without looking out of place on older properties. Duplus rooflights align with these trends, with the majority of demand being the anthracite grey finish.

### 2023

According to the experts, there are several prominent trends expected to be big for 2023:

Next year we can expect to see an increase in demand for bathrooms that bring serenity. Natural wood and textures, soothing greens (even on large areas such as furniture), and blues to mirror calm waters will feature. This at-home spa design will bring a contrast to what is set to be a difficult year for many people (due to the cost-of-living crisis), so bathrooms and self-care spaces become safe havens from everyday stresses. In other areas of the home, expect soft materials, alongside some pops of colour, as well as “essential oil diffusers, chic massage tables, and vibey candles”.

### Sustainability and eco friendly

Sustainability will continue to grow as a trend with an emergence of new technologies. Homeowners will also be asking more about healthy materials, such as



limewash and low VOC paints, as well as recycled and natural materials, and there will also be demand for very organic, natural, and raw finishes, with emphasis on sustainable fabrics.

### 1980s Memphis design

In 2023 we might also see an odd splattering of Memphis Design from the 80s. Characterized by scattered, brightly coloured shapes, and lines, it typically combines circles and triangles with black-and-white graphic patterns such as polka dots and squiggly lines.

### Greek influences

Another interesting rising trend is Hellenism. Pinterest Predicts 2022 said that homeowners will be looking to “infuse ancient aesthetics into their home, from an Aphrodite-themed bathroom to blue, gold and white colour palettes”. In 2023 there's going to be a revival of Greek motifs, and if you think about some of the aforementioned mentioned trends – including curves and checked floors – then this is one way to pull multiple trends together in one space... Combine rusty terracotta colours with pops of brave cobalt blues to get the look.

An easy way to instantly update the look of your bathroom, at relatively little cost, is to replace the fixtures and fittings, so if you are used to chrome bathroom fittings, swapping them for brass will really make a difference. You can contrast deeper shades (such as hints of teal) amongst neutrals, golds, and other warm metallics, for a more eye-catching look.

### Milky ceramics

Milky ceramics – mainly in white, creams, and milk tones – will also be popular in 2023. These neutral pieces will feature in

both plain and speckled designs, and will pop up across kitchenware, bathroom accessories, and other ornamental pieces.

### ‘Spring brights’ and neon touches

With some experts believing that the next trend will be focussed on organic design with either pastel or ‘spring brights’ colour palettes, which will be complemented by a hint of neon. Both of these will allow people to express their personality and bring some fun into the design. The neon theme has been popping up more in the commercial and retail space, and this is likely to follow through to the residential market into 2023.

### Fifth wall

The experts are also seeing a move towards using the ceiling as the fifth wall. Rather than painting the ceiling the same colour as the walls, the experts suggest using a contrasting colour, wallpaper, or corning to create a statement. Exposing (or adding) beams, tiling, or adding textured finishes are other alternative options.

Thanks to the seven experts who gave their views for this article, including:

- Chris Hammond, director at boutique developer Beau Property
- Chris Harvey, head of marketing for Stelrad
- Felicity White, director and lead interior designer at Felicity White Interiors
- Lisa, home staging consultant at Stylize Staging
- Marta Balazs, interior designer at Embee Interiors
- Richard Ghinn, managing director at Tradebase.com
- Tom Midgley, director at C.T Joinery and Developments



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# Johnstone's Trade by PPG announces 2023 Colour of the Year

Each year Johnstone's Trade shows its instinct in its choice of Colour of the Year to help your customers find an impactful colour for their interior and exterior projects; the 2023 Colour of the Year is no different. Introducing the Johnstone's Trade by PPG Voice of Colour 2023 Colour of the Year: Vining Ivy (PPG1148-6), a turquoise tint that is both modern and versatile.

PPG Voice of Colour's Vining Ivy brings together a powerful blue with delicate green to create a colour that will create a feeling of both calm and energy to your customer's project. The combination of blue and green hues creates a rich, modern colour that brings out the best in any interior, whilst still providing a balanced colour for outdoors. Your customers can combine it with deeper wood tints and off-whites to create a natural effect to give a luxurious look and feel.

"Consumers are seeking to simplify in this

Vining Ivy: a bluish, greenish colour with bold turquoise tint that can offer both a calming and energising feel.



post-COVID era, as the past two years have shed a new light on the importance of serenity and little moments," said Donna Taylor, PPG colour expert, Johnstone's Trade. "This makes the JOHNSTONE'S® TRADE Voice of Colour 2023 Colour of the Year - Vining Ivy the perfect colour for our times. The colour represents a sense of energy whilst at the same time a feeling of serenity and calm."

Under the 2023 Voice of Colour trend theme – Reflection, PPG's colour experts identified three colour schemes that will provide some

project inspiration for your customers for the year to come:

**Serenity:** A relaxing design theme that allows for reflection and our need for a calm space to live in; using Voice of Colour's Earth Rose, Luxurious and Gothic Amethyst.

**Origin:** A natural trend that represents our relationships with the environments that surround us; using colours from the Voice of Colour's palette such as Cool Clay, Fossil Stone and Midnight Glade that complements the colour Vining Ivy.

**Duality:** A vibrant scheme celebrating our dynamic relationships with the world; using the Voice of Colour's Petal Whisper, Citrus Sachet and Briquette to provide a contemporary look.

The Voice of Colour palette is available exclusively in Johnstone's Trade paints which are available at Johnstone's Decorating Centres, independent retailers and locations across the UK and Ireland. Find Vining Ivy and the rest of the 2023 trends colours at the store nearest to you or visit [www.johnstonestrade.com/colour](http://www.johnstonestrade.com/colour).



# Wrap it, don't scrap it

You can change a kitchen by wrapping the units with film



**As the cost of living crisis and rising inflation bite, expensive interior upgrades will no longer be a priority for most, boosting the popularity of the cheaper architectural film alternative.**

William Smith Group 1832 have recognised this growing demand and has been leading the way in the training of the next generation of suppliers and installers for more than a decade.

The training courses are led by Gill Harrison and John Raine, alongside Mike Szwacki, who was awarded the 'best in Europe' accolade for his expertise in vehicle wrapping. The team use their extensive

experience to teach those wanting to learn new skills and add to those they already have.

"Maybe you're looking for a new direction, changing your current path or expanding into new markets," said Lindsay Appleton, marketing manager at Architextural, part of the William Smith Group 1832. "William Smith's training academy has the knowledge and expertise to make sure you are on the right path."

While the first vehicle wrapping training course offered by the Academy first began in 2008, the art of kitchen wrapping was new to the Academy in 2022 and is devoted to training professionals on how to correctly apply Architectural Films in the kitchen environment.

Knowledge is power and since the popularity of kitchen wrapping has exploded in the UK as a way to upcycle existing surfaces, many are looking to offer it as part of their

business. The trainers at Architextural all have years of experience using self-adhesive films used in the courses on offer.

Windows, too, are fast becoming something that consumers are looking to improve, especially with rising costs of energy. Did you know windows are an easy way to make a building more energy efficient? The Academy offers training that explains the difference between solar and safety window films for buildings, as well as how to get that perfect solution for the customer's needs.

If something can be wrapped then the trainers at the Academy will have the know-how and when it comes to Architectural Film, the sky really is the limit.

If you are interested in booking onto one of their courses, visit their dedicated training calendar where you can find out more details about what is on offer, prices and upcoming dates. See the calendar here: <https://www.williamsmith.co.uk/training/1>



## Airflow launches its Mightyflex range



Having success with our Hoofproof range of flexible buckets for the equestrian market limited us. We found the marine, as well as the decorating/building markets loved the flexibility of the product.

Airflow decided to bring all the flexible buckets and tubs under one title to extol the benefits of Mightyflex.

Equestrian/farming markets use flexible tubs in everyday use. Quality is what counts, our products are especially strong in the handles, the buckets are loved for their ability to push back out when animals tread on them.

Decorators love the ability to easily release old paint to reuse again, whilst the builders market find a use for all the range as well as the ridged products Airflow produce.

Available in a range of colours Mightyflex products come in a variety of sizes, that are competitively priced with quality at the heart.

Details at [www.Airflow-vent.co.uk](http://www.Airflow-vent.co.uk)

## Fast action and heavy duty paint strippers



Two new paint and varnish strippers have been introduced by Bartoline; Paint Predator Heavy Duty and Paint Predator Fast Action

Bartoline's new Paint Predator paint and varnish strippers are, unlike many traditional strippers on the market, non-flammable.

Paint Predator Heavy Duty is a high-strength, deep penetrating formulation that removes in excess of six\* layers of paint or varnish in a single two-coat application. With minimal evaporation it continues to work and does not 'flash-off'. Non-drip, it is ideal for vertical surfaces.

Formulated for rapid results, Paint Predator Fast Action strips up to three\* layers of paint or varnish in 30 minutes, is easy to use.

## Multi purpose cutters



Bessey's 260-mm D52-2 has straight cutters that allow a cutting length of 53 mm. It cuts through soft materials such as cardboard, fabric and paper effortlessly and can even make cuts in cold-rolled steel up to 0.6 mm thick. The interlocking hardened cutter prevents slipping off while working, and the proven ERGO handle – in its characteristic red/black design – makes for an easy grip and comfortable feel when handled. The cutter and handle for the new D52-2 are forged in one single piece, which gives it its extra stability. Its blades have been sandblasted to protect against corrosion and surface-treated. This makes the cutters ideally equipped for use outdoors in poor adverse weather conditions.

## Workwear System for Autumn

Snickers Workwear's body-mapping Jackets, Tops, Trousers and Accessories work together for sustainable working comfort and protection wherever and whenever its needed.

Designed for professional craftsmen and women who want maximum functionality and mobility on site, they incorporate the very latest in high-tech fabric technology for top-class performance.

The new clothing in the Autumn Workwear System includes windproof, waterproof and Hi-Vis garments for both men and women to keep them warm, dry and visible all day, every day.





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## Makita adds more woodworking tools to its range



Makita has launched a new 40VMax XGT Brushless Pin Nailer (PT001G) and added a new kit option for its recently introduced 40VMax XGT 82mm Planer (KP001GD201). The new 40VMax XGT Brushless Pin Nailer (PT001G) has been specially designed for interior nailing operations where a high quality finish is required, such as the installation of decorative mouldings. The low recoil mechanism enables effective nailing without pushing the tip of the pin nailer so firmly onto the material. The PT001G is compatible with 23Ga pin nails in 15, 18, 25, 30 and 35mm lengths, has a simple driving depth adjustment and a magazine capacity of 100.

## Contract matt



Part of the Sherwin-Williams family, Valspar Trade's Contract Matt has been specially designed with the trade professional in mind. Ideal for new plaster, it provides high-opacity, excellent coverage and is easy to spray, helping to get the job done faster.

## Speedy filler range



Toupret has launched Joint, Skim & Fill together with a range of Patch and Repair products. Formulated for interior plasterboard jointing and surface finishing, the range consists of powder & ready mixed products that are quick and easy to mix and apply. It provides a smooth finish with fine skimming in just one coat and is easy to sand for a perfect finish. Toupret say Joint, Skim & Fill has no depth limit and it doesn't shrink. There is no need to prime for overcoating and the finished surface is ready to paint in 12 hours. Joint, Skim & Fill Quick Dry powder incorporates all these qualities with the added benefit of being ready to overpaint in just 3 hours. Available in 5kg or 10kg bags.

## Vivaro Electric revises range



Vauxhall has revealed a new, simplified trim structure for its award-winning Light Commercial Vehicle (LCV) range. The revised range simplifies the Combo, Vivaro and Movano line up by offering customers clearer choice between vehicles as well as adding greater connectivity and improved technology. At the same time, the revised range greatly improves the value proposition for customers with list price reductions of up to £7,500. Orders for the updated LCV range are now open, with first deliveries commencing later this year.



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