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Spring 2023

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Welcome to the re-designed spring edition of the Professional Painter and Decorator Magazine.

Spring is about renewal, and you can tap into design ideas with a spring refresh for interiors or read the expert knowledge from Cait Whitson on why a side hustle on painted furniture can be a great way to expand your business with rejuvenated furniture pieces.

Whether you are an old hand or new to the sector, there is always something to learn in our advice and technique sections.

Innovation is the name of the game, and if you are looking for a new van, read the test drive of the electric Volkswagen ID Buzz. As ever, with the finishing sector, there are always new and updated products, and we bring you these in our Gear Guide.

We're also keen to show your fantastic projects, so if you have something you are proud of, please do get in touch – ppdeditorial@saintpublicity.co.uk

Catherine Saint, Editor



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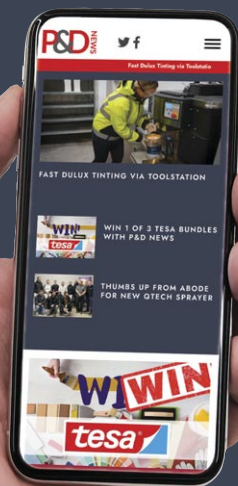
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- Projects
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- Competitions



Continued support for No Falls Foundation

WERNERCO, THE WORLD'S leading manufacturer of ladders and access equipment, announces its continued support to the No Falls Foundation and pledges its ongoing support of their initiatives to encourage safety and risk awareness when working at height.

After initially becoming a Gold Sponsor in 2021, WernerCo will continue its sponsorship of the charity, which is the first within the industry to offer advice and guidance to those working at height, including providing support to those who have been affected by falls from height.

When falls from height account for 38,000 non-fatal injuries to workers each year – 40% of which were made up of falls from ladders in 2022 – the No Falls Foundation's work remains as vital as ever as it aims to provide a greater level of prevention and awareness for those working at height.

Justin White, Managing Director for WernerCo UK, said: "Our shared mission with the No Falls Foundation of raising awareness of the accident rates and educating users on working at height safety remains a priority for both organisations and in turn makes it an ideal charity for us to support.

"We look forward to our ongoing relationship and hope that our collaboration will continue to strive to make a difference to the number of incidents that are reported each year."

WernerCo prides itself in providing equipment that goes through rigorous testing and meets all safety standards. Its Stepping up to Ladder Safety aims to help professionals take proactive steps towards safe working practices, and offers a range of guides on how to use access equipment safely; how to choose the right ladder for the job; and practical training courses. ■



Fast Dulux tinting via Toolstation

TOOLSTATION HAS PARTNERED with Dulux Trade to launch a next day paint tinting service. Customers can purchase via the Toolstation app or online.

Toolstation will list the paints in 1L, 2.5L and 5L sizes in 170+ different colours and 13 different finishes, making over 2,500 combinations available. Samples will also be available in 250ml sizes. Customers will need to order by 9pm for next business day delivery. ■



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Painted in Dulux Trade Diamond Satinwood by Tony Pearson-Young, Dulux Academy. Colour - Hollybush.

Dulux
TRADE



One Show. One City.

VISITORS ARE NOW able to book their free tickets to the UK's exhibition for the decorating trade, the National Painting and Decorating Show.

The exhibition takes place at CBS Arena in Coventry on 21 and 22 November, and it's updated website is now live – www.paintshow.co.uk

Organiser Terry Dullaway told P&D News, "With nine months still to go to opening day, some 90% of stand space has already been booked. This year there will be, once again,

well over 100 exhibitors from the UK and overseas.

"And with an expected audience in excess of 3000, it's going to be a very busy two days!"

Taking time out from your business has got to add up commercially, and be fun... The P&D Show scores on both counts. With the latest innovations in textures, techniques, colours, paints, wallcoverings, decorating tools and sundries, woodcare and decorative effects, there's also:

- Live demos
- Business Building Ideas
- Fantastic show-only deals
- Free samples
- Prize draws worth thousands

PP&D will keep you up to date as detailed plans are released by both the organisers and the exhibitors.

Visit www.paintshow.co.uk to register for your free ticket. ■



Screwfix extends refurb tools range



SCREWFIX HAS EXTENDED its range of refurbished power tools, following a successful trial on their website last year, with the trade showing how it values the opportunity to give tools a second and longer life.

Initially set up with 12 units, the range now counts over 700 products, with over 75,000 items successfully refurbished in 2022.

When products are returned, they are fully PAT and functionality tested. All components and instructions are checked, cleaned, and refurbished so contractors have everything they need to get the job done. The refurbished tools are also supplied with all accessories and benefit from a one-year guarantee.

Where it is not possible to repair and refurbish a faulty product, Screwfix recover spare parts and recycle in line with Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment regulations, with zero waste to landfill.

With its new campaign "Let's Fix Tomorrow Today", Screwfix aims to become a sector leader in sustainability, encouraging other retailers to take action to secure a greener future for the next generations. ■

Hamilton named CDC's 'Supplier of the Year'

CROWN DECORATING CENTRES named Hamilton as their supplier of the year for 2022, at their annual conference in January. Naiem Wafa, Managing Director of Crown Decorating Centres, presented the prestigious award to Hamilton National Account Manager Zak Pickens, and Sarah Coussens, Head of Trade Marketing, at the event in Leicester.

Naiem commented, "This award is voted on by 800 CDC colleagues nationally in Ireland and the UK, and recognises that Hamilton's support

has been awesome. The team from Hamilton have been proactive, agile and completely supportive. Well done and congratulations"

This award comes after over twelve months of continuously developing the relationship between CDC and Hamilton, assisting with merchandising, and the strong launch of the Hamilton For The Trade range into stores, a range that has seen ongoing success and has been very well-received by store staff across the UK and Ireland. ■





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Spring Decor

Ideas to Brighten Up a Living Room

Benji Lewis offers spring décor ideas that will add a joyful refresh to living room spaces this season.

As we slowly say goodbye to the drab winter months and start to welcome warmer weather, it's the perfect time to focus on bringing a springtime feel to homes.

I adore the positive impact that yellow provides, but I'd nevertheless try to avoid using a tone that edges towards being too primary.

Yellow Pink by Little Greene is a brilliant choice, because whilst it offers plenty of feel good happiness, it also has a richness to it that makes it a pretty sophisticated choice.

After the gloom of winter, spruce things up with a combination of a Springtime pattern and colour, or even to include florals with stripes.

Don't forget to get texturally creative too, linens for Spring are great, so bring these into the mix with your velvet and woven textiles.

If blue's more your thing, then avoid anything that might go glacial and lead to feelings of cold... Instead look for an upbeat turquoise like the one offered by Edward Bulmer Paint.

The inclusion of rugs is a given when it comes to a decorative overhaul, having an expanse of bare floor bereft of rugs is pretty underwhelming, but consider the texture of the floor covering just as much as the pattern when you shop.



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Spring Decor



< If the room you need a rug for is large and acquiring a single huge rug to dress the space is daunting, then re-think things to envisage using a couple of rugs instead.

Work out however how your furniture will sit on your rugs, a scale furniture plan will show you how things will fit.

Choose a good clean white if you fancy sharpening things up, and if you're after additional colour then incorporate rosey pink, with celadon green and streaks of lilac.

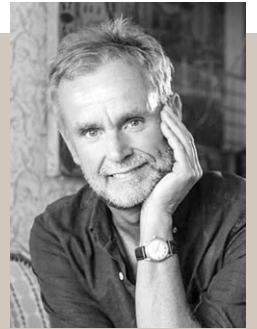
Floral pattern is great to welcome in the change of season, swap cushions out accordingly or if you're up for it then take a fully floral linen to upholster your sofa entirely.

There's a suggestion that a floral pattern should only be used in a traditional context, but I find that taking a trad floral design and putting it onto a contemporary sofa or chaise is a brilliant way of shaking up the formula. ■



Benji Lewis is an established British interior designer with extensive experience working on residential and commercial properties both at home and abroad. These include flats and studios, town and country houses, listed properties and commercial spaces such as the redesign of London's Universal Studios offices.

www.benjilewisdesign.co.uk



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ADVANCE

Painted Furniture

By Cait Whitson

A great side-hustle or star of the show?

On site recently I've had more and more fellow painters telling me that they are getting into hand painted furniture and upcycling as a side hustle to their main business. I think lockdown had a lot to do with this, and many now have a workshop and spraying rigs sitting idle some of the time...

Like hand painted kitchens used to be, this field has been the domain of specialists outside of the main painting and decorating environment, but one that is an obvious transition for the creative painter.

Let's face it, during the British summer when exteriors can be halted by an unexpected shower or when inevitably that scheduled project isn't ready for you and you have a dead day, it's an ideal filler.

Commissions from customers are coming more often as they realise that upcycling their existing furniture is a great way to help the planet and their pocket, and painting their sideboard to match the newly painted kitchen for any decorator is a breeze.

Many of our customers offer us furniture they no longer need and making a few quid upcycling and selling them sounds easy.

However, the upcycling and painted furniture field is a surprisingly sophisticated and if you get it right an extremely lucrative one, but it is no longer enough to paint a chest of drawers in left over paint and bung it on Facebook Marketplace. *Why?* Because the competition is stiff and market savvy and the customer is looking for more.

Long gone are the slappers of Chalk Paint onto unprepped furniture, giving it a quick distress and a wax. In fact if you want to see high end finishing in paints like



Annie Sloan Chalk Paint at its best in the hands of Chloe Kempster – an inspirational painter worth following online and on TV. See more of her work at www.instagram.com/chloekempsterdesign



Hairpin Legs and New Handles added to a Nathan Squares sideboard by Adore Once More – www.adoreoncemore.co.uk



Annie Sloan and Farrow and Ball, (brands that can often invoke an eye roll from many a painter and decorator) then look no further than Chloe Kempster, now seen on TV on programs like *Money for Nothing*.

These days the industry has its own trade body, its own magazine, and not only that, a three day residential conference dedicated to it, so you can understand that it is a business that is taken seriously.

Plain Paint

There is always a market for the plain painted piece. Popular colours of course are from Farrow and Ball, Little Greene and similar ranges, however many painted furniture customers now know the colours from the dedicated furniture paint ranges. These tend to be expensive in comparison to household paint, but the advantage is that they come in smaller pot sizes suited to smaller projects.

Alongside that, these ranges have multiple accessory products in their ranges such as paint pouring mediums, patination products, glitters, decoupage glues, crackle mediums, texture mediums, resins... The list is endless.

Ranges to look out for are Fleur, Autentico, Fusion, Daydream Apothecary alongside of course Annie Sloan Chalk Paint. These are just a few.

When doing a plain paint piece, you might want to think about not just painting it and putting the old handles back on, but upgrading the hardware, especially the handles, or perhaps the piece would

benefit from different legs like the hairpin legs on the piece at the top left of this page.

Painting or wallpapering the insides of drawers, maybe stencilling the sides of the drawers or picking out dovetail detailing adds value to the piece and demonstrates your attention to detail.

Patterned Pieces

Hand painted patterns are of course wonderful, but not everyone has the ability, so stencilling and decoupage can bring a new dimension to a piece of furniture.

Stencils are 'old hat' I hear you say, but hey, what about a raised stencil or hand touching a stencilled design so it looks hand painted. Decoupage has always been popular and now there are a huge range of decoupage papers and transfers specifically designed >



Cait Whitson started her first decorative painting business in 1986, developing a broad expertise in traditional and modern paint finishes, she started teaching and has continued to share her knowledge extensively both in the UK and in the USA. Her company built a remarkable reputation as a continuing source of expertise for other specialists and generalists in the decorative finishes market, providing training, courses, blog guidance, technical advice and highly specialised paints and paint finishes.

www.cocoandclementine.co.uk



www.instagram.com/madeitpretty

www.pompglory.co.uk



It's possible to go to completely wild when upcycling, incorporating stencilling, metal leaf and onlays, wallpaper and gold wax.

< for furniture. Look out for Mint by Michelle, Redesign With Prima, Decoupage Queen and the truly fabulous Iron Orchid Designs.

These and wallpaper offcuts are now used a lot, either on their own as a statement, or, worked into with paint, metal leaf, and waxes to make them unique.

There are also a variety of decorative on-lay type products that can jazz up a plain piece or cover damage. Woodubend have a vast catalogue of bendable, paintable decorative mouldings and hundreds of tutorials. PolyOnlay make thin wooden decorative features, and you can even cast your own decorative mouldings... There are lots of moulds out there.

This is an arena where you can go literally wild and you are only limited by your imagination. At the top end of the market right now you will see pieces priced over £5,000, that include drinks cabinets and luxcycled pieces that are totally over the top.

There are hundreds of great furniture artists out there, start looking on *Pinterest*, get involved in groups and you will see that the best of the best are selling at a considerable profit, but they have worked hard to get there.

Selling Furniture

Developing your own style is important, and if you want a loyal customer base that will come back for more, then you need to also identify what your customer base is likely to be – If you are advertising pieces on your business page, many current customers will be following you, and you already know their taste, as you've worked for them before; but this could be a symbiotic relationship drawing new customers to your decorating business as well as adding an extra income stream to the existing one.

First of all you need to make sure that your furniture is well staged. Poorly staged pieces sell for less, it's fact! Thrive Furniture Staging is a Facebook monthly paid subscription group for furniture artists. They cover staging, photography, lighting, editing, pricing assistance.

Next you need to find a good marketplace. Of course Facebook Marketplace, eBay and Vinted are great, but they do tend to be frequented by bargain hunters, so it's worth trying Etsy, Vinterior, Narchie, Conscious Cubby and Upcite.

Good luck and have fun! ■



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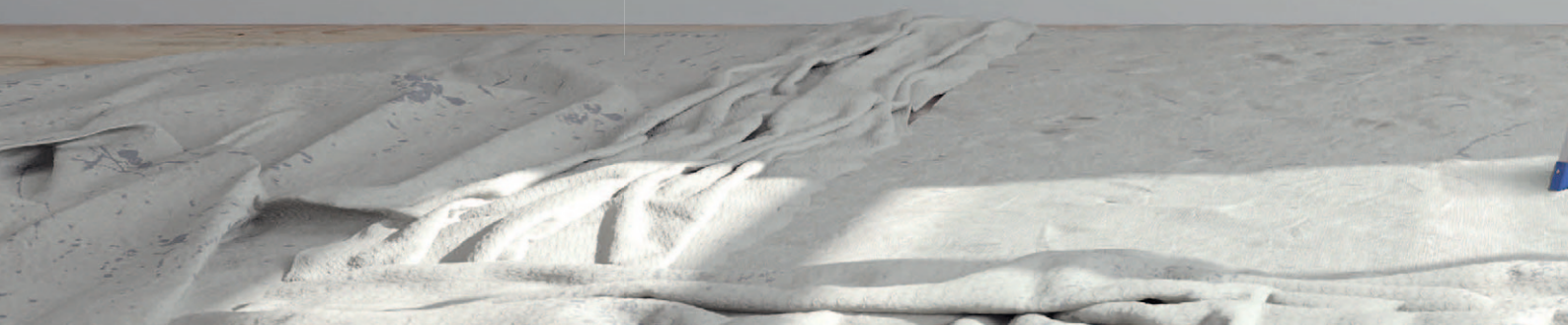
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Now is the time to act!

Tembe DIY Products Ltd explains why the construction industry needs to become more sustainable.

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Key environmental drivers such as climate change are making many market sector organisations re-evaluate their impact on the sustainability of the planet. Whilst plastic consumption has decreased in general by 2.7% within the UK, during the last 24 months, total plastic waste within the construction industry, has alarmingly increased by a staggering 69.8%. (Source DEFRA)

Furthermore, an estimated 45.4 million tonnes of waste is dumped in landfill each year, with only enough space for 175.1 million tonnes of waste left in total in the UK. (Source: Environment Journey)

The need to hold ourselves accountable and start thinking about how we can recycle and better reuse our waste has never before been more pressing.

That is why Tembé DIY has continued to invest heavily, providing the industry with sustainable new product solutions such as Hippo ECO-PAC's, Bamboo Wipes and Cloths.

Along with their drive to eliminate single use plastics, their own research revealed that many trade professionals wanted their wet wipes stored in strong, durable containers to withstand life in unforgiving environments, like building sites.



In response, under the Hippo brand, Tembé DIY launched their 100% Biodegradable Multi-Purpose Bamboo Wipes available in a reusable tub and refill pack combination. The bamboo is responsibly sourced from FSC approved forests growing 30x faster than other trees with a growth rate of up to 30cm in just one day.

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Perfect Palettes FOR SEND SCHOOL

Paint expert Dulux Trade has supported the design of two new multi-sensory classrooms at Firwood High School, Woodbridge Academy in Bolton. To ensure a comfortable and inclusive learning environment for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, Dulux Trade drew upon its colour expertise to create bespoke palettes that instil feelings of calm and aid productivity.

Firwood High School, Woodbridge Academy in Bolton is a severe learning disabilities school for children aged 11-19, and its core focus is on providing young people with varying needs the chance to learn in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Having worked with Firwood High School for several years, the team at Dulux Trade recognised an opportunity to create colour palettes for two multi-sensory classrooms, designed to help engage students using more than one sense at a time, that the school can use to further support its students.

Dawn Evans, Head of School at Firwood High School explained: "For multi-sensory classrooms to work effectively, it is important to create a calming and relaxing space that eliminates distraction and can be easily adapted to suit the needs of every pupil."

To make the classrooms a comfortable environment for all, it was important to avoid colours used in traditional classroom settings such as brilliant whites and bold reds, yellows and oranges, as they can be overwhelming and distracting. Instead, the Dulux Trade team looked to softer tones to create a tranquil and calming space.

Jayne Roughan at Dulux Trade said, "Colour is crucial to the successful design of learning environments, and this is especially true for students with special

educational needs and disabilities. Our team of expert colour consultants understand that colour and design can impact on how occupants feel and behave within a space, which is why they work closely with clients to understand the purpose of the environment and identify palettes that can support this.

"When Dawn Scott, Commercial Colour Consultant at Dulux Trade designed the colour schemes for Firwood High School's KS3 and PMLD multi-sensory classrooms, she used a palette of softer tones that instil feelings of calm and relaxation, and act as a neutral backdrop for a wide range of activities, such as warm neutrals, pinks, deep blues, and greens." >





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< As well as the choice of colour, it was also important for the Dulux Trade team to consider how different tones could be used to enhance wellbeing. For example, critical surfaces such as walls, floors and doors, were all painted in contrasting colours to aid wayfinding and promote familiarity and independence. Using gentle tones like *30YY 78/018*, *10RR 53/087* or *30GY 62/159* for the walls and bolder shades like Midnight around door and window frames can make these elements stand out and help students to navigate around the space more easily. In addition, using a stronger hue like *10RR 21/235* and *90GG 39/220* for the teaching wall helps to draw the eye and boost pupils' focus.

The Dulux Trade team also had to carefully consider how natural light could affect the colours chosen. Using cooler tones in southerly sunny rooms and warmer shades in northerly, shadier, rooms can help make the space feel more comfortable – and mid and deeper tones help to absorb sensitive glare in bright areas. With both classrooms facing northwest, Dulux Trade selected warm pinks and violets in the KS3 classroom to create a harmonious scheme – and calm greens and blues in the PMLD (profound and multiple learning difficulties) classroom to bring light and balance.

Dulux Trade also wanted to ensure a long-lasting, easy to maintain finish that could withstand the high foot traffic of the school environment. As such, the Dulux Trade Scuffshield range was recommended, as it has been designed to protect walls against scuff marks from items like shoes and bags – and it is cleanable.

To help deliver the project on time and to a high standard, the Dulux Trade team worked closely with Bagnalls Painting Contractors.

“Here at Bagnalls, we embraced the opportunity to get involved”, said Steve Bethell at Bagnalls, “We have been working with Dulux Trade since 1920 and trust in the quality, durability, and easy application of its products. Scuffshield was quick and easy to apply and thanks to its water-based formula, the paint dried in just 4-6 hours, enabling us to adhere to tight timescales and deliver the project in time for the students' return in September.”

Dawn Evans continued, “We are absolutely thrilled with the design of the two multi-sensory classrooms and are looking into how we can utilise the Dulux Trade colour palettes created for this project across other areas of the school.” ■



To see a video on this project, scan the QR code!



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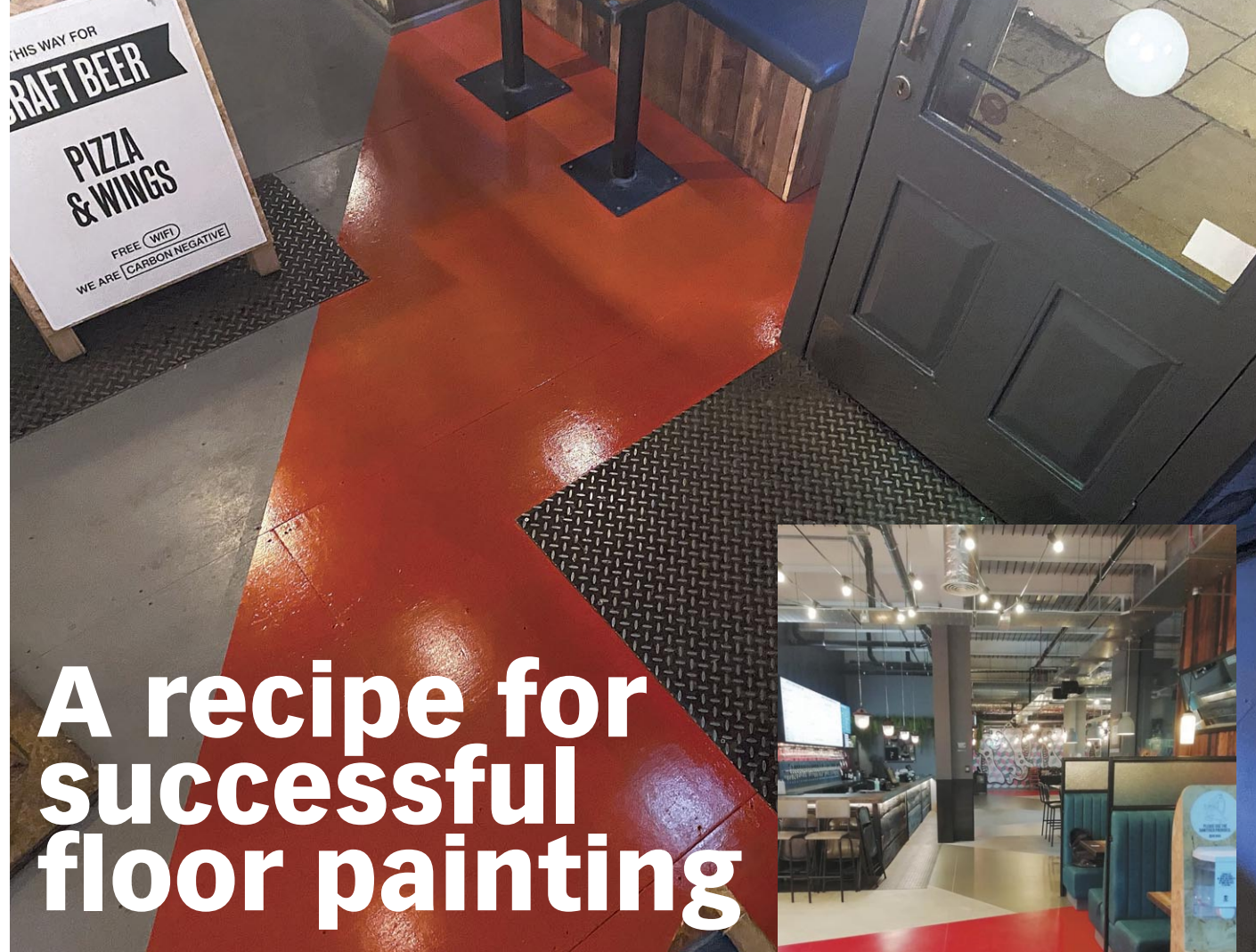
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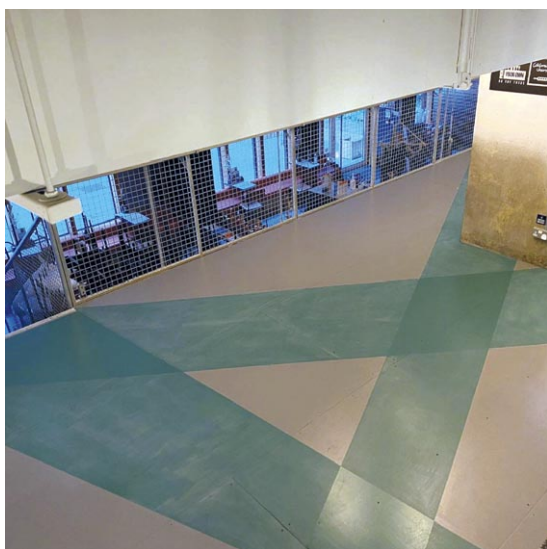
Floor-It is a low odour acrylic paint suited to medium traffic areas. It provides an extremely durable surface which is mark, stain and petrol resistant. Its quick drying abilities – touch dry in just 30 minutes and re-coatable after an hour – mean it is highly recommended for business or commercial use, where speed of completion is a major consideration.

"We were after a floor paint that was quick-drying and hard wearing." Said Jake Bygrave from JB Decorating Services. His regular supplier, Brewers' South Norwich branch, recommended the Floor-It product.

"I was very impressed, the application was fantastic." says Jake, who decorated the floors of bars in London, Plymouth and York, each with different substrates.

One floor was a non-porous concrete floor and another had been previously painted. As a versatile floor paint suitable for a range of internal or external surfaces, Floor-It was the ideal topcoat for a smooth, durable finish. The third premises had a floor newly fitted with plyboard, and here Bradite One Can was used as a strengthening primer.

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TEST DRIVE

By David Stokes



The first impression is similar to all electric vehicles, there is an absence of a radiator grill because there isn't a need for a radiator. The lack does make you look twice because of their odd appearance. Driving the Buzz takes some getting used to and those, like me, brought up on petrol and diesel vans will have to relearn many aspects of their driving technique.

Volkswagen ID. BUZZ

Let's be honest now, many of us don't like reading instruction manuals but it's really a must with the Buzz. For instance, like many cars nowadays there's nowhere to put the key, it stays in your pocket. Switching on the Buzz is done by sitting down in the driver's seat, and this makes the Buzz aware of your presence.

I'm a kindly soul and I live right out in the sticks on the Romney Marsh, the Buzz being a complete departure from ordinary vans, I gave the delivery guy a lift... a) because getting away from my home area means a long wait for public transport, and b) I really needed his input and instruction on how to operate this extraordinary vehicle!

If you like technology, you will love it. You open the driver's door and take a seat, lights start to glow in the display binnacle that's over the steering column and on the mini-iPad size screen in the centre of the dash.

In the cab after sitting down, you find the steering wheel with its myriad of buttons for cruise control and the entertainment centre, behind which are two stalks, left and right. Left controls the wipers and indicators and the right is the 'gear knob', forward, neutral and reverse plus the parking brake, plus 'engine braking' where you can use the motor to inhibit progress and whilst it's doing that it's charging the battery, not much, but every little bit is welcome.

The centre screen, when not in action but with you sitting in the seat, displays an electronic analogue clock. A top row of controls look after ambient temperature and sound level, a lower row has five buttons, (P,menu), clima, hazard warning light switch, assist and mode.

The (P,menu) helps with parking, sorts out your heating and air con, Assist is *IQ Drive* which keeps you in your lane and will warn you if you get too close to the vehicle in front, automatically applying the brakes to avoid a collision. 'Mode' allows you to choose a driving style, either Eco, Comfort, Sport or Individual Mode. There's also sat nav and many more items of delight. >



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< The vehicle's environmental credentials are not just about zero-emissions, they also extend to the use of recycled plastics in the fit-out.

Getting down to earth, one buys a van for the vehicle's ability to carry stuff. You won't be able to shift an eight by four sheet of ply as the carrying space isn't long enough at 2.23 metres, and

the rear door aperture is also only 1.3 metres at its widest and 1.1 in height.

However, if it's small van you're after, then this fits the bill. In addition, there is a long wheelbase on its way in the near future which will be of more use for those wanting the extra carrying length.

While we all want to reduce emissions and do our bit for the environment, like many I'm not convinced the electric vehicles are the way forward at the moment. There so many problems to overcome; the range of each vehicle, the electrical infrastructure is not adequate to allow us all to own and charge an electric

powered car in any street at the same time, and the same applies to longer distance travel.

When you can charge up, an electric vehicle does score on the cost to 'fill' up. The average domestic electricity rate across the whole of the UK is about 28p per kWh, so fully charging the 77kWh ID. Buzz vehicle will cost around £21 (depending on where you live) and give you up to 258 miles of range.

On the plus side, by switching to an electricity tariff designed specifically for EV drivers, like EDF's GoElectric Exclusive 35, you could reduce this to just 4.5p per kWh and charge up for under £5 while you sleep.

All in all, it is a beautifully built van and exciting to drive, but in the words of James May, "Driving an electric vehicle, you are always on an economy drive." For me, that can become tedious, but maybe it fits the brief for some people. Why not try it for yourself and book in a test drive? ■

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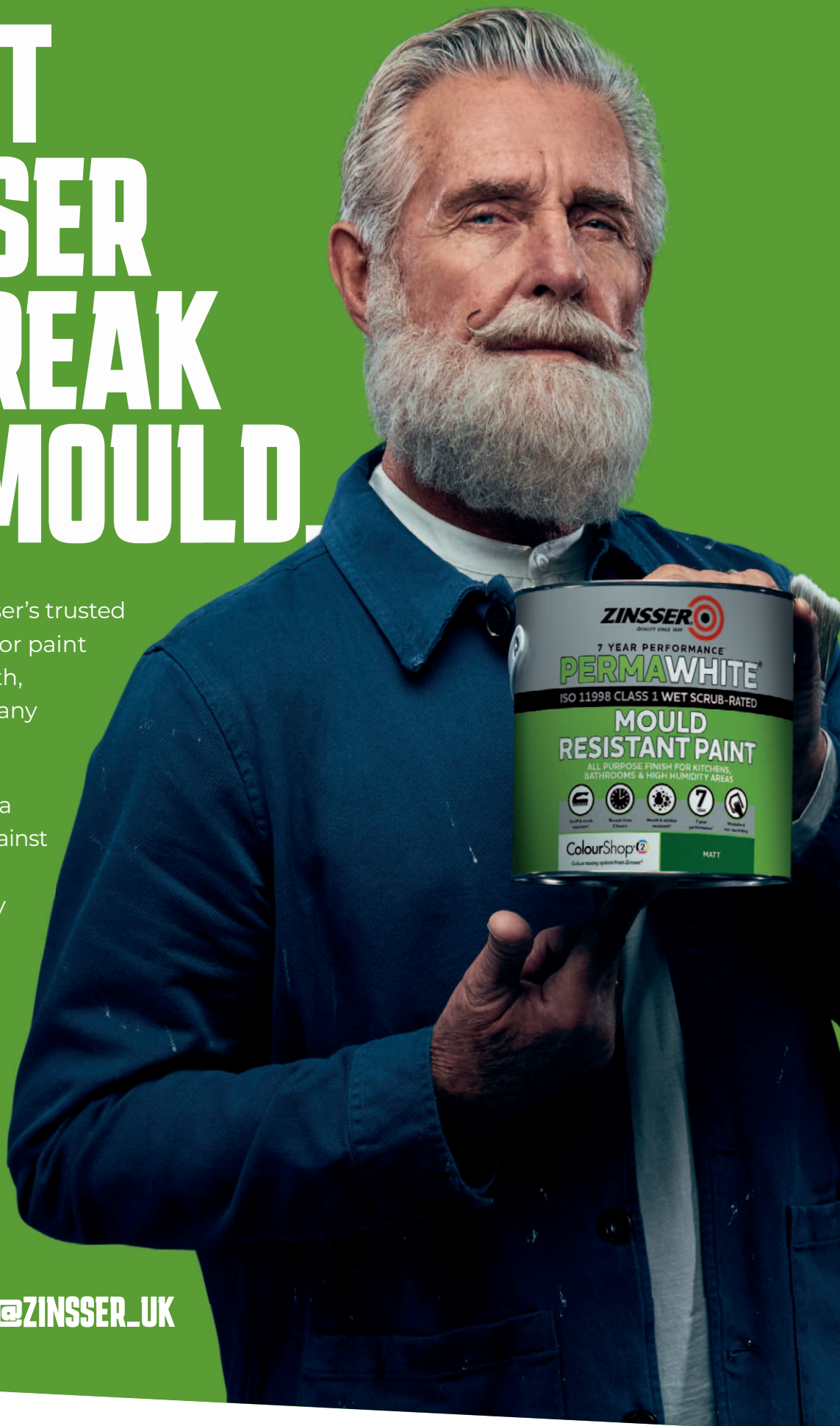


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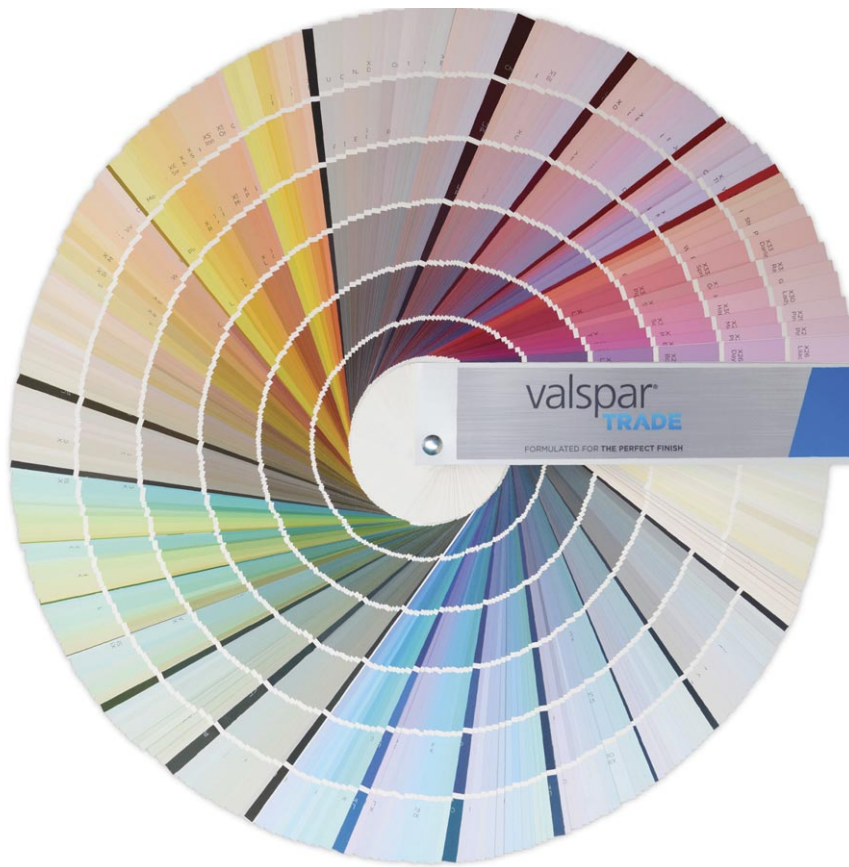
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The importance of understanding COLOUR

As colour can affect moods, feelings, and emotions, it's useful to understand the basics of colour psychology to help your customers choose the correct shades for their home. Laura Hettenbach, Senior Trade Brands Campaign Manager at Valspar Trade, explains more here.

As a painter and decorator, you can never underestimate the value of understanding colour and being able to provide customers with a colour consultation at the start of a project. Having this knowledge will allow you to create personalised colour schemes for your customers and set you apart from local competition.

Colour can play an important role in the way a room feels and how a person using it can feel. Therefore, when you meet a customer for the first time, you will need to establish what they'll be using the room for and how they want to feel when using it – this is vital to ensure you get the colour scheme right. *For example*, if a person struggles to sleep at night, then they should opt for more calming tones, rather than bright, bold hues.

In general, warm colours, such as yellows, oranges, and reds, will help rooms to feel inviting and cosy, whilst cool colours, such as greens, blues, and purples, can help achieve a brighter, calmer environment. However, each colour within these two groups can have their own universal meaning.

For instance, red stimulates energy, passion and encourages action; green is for creativity and calm; orange stimulates activity and socialisation; purple can have an uplifting and calming impact; and light blue can achieve a sense of tranquillity. However, colour psychology isn't science and sometimes a customer's choice can be based purely on personal preference.

Once an initial colour has been agreed with a customer, it's recommended that a colour wheel is then

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used to finalise the shades. Some people may look at a fan deck or a colour wheel as a catalogue of colours, but in fact, it can be a very handy tool for colour scheming, providing you with several options:

- Customers can choose a single colour in different tints, shades and tones
- Colours can be chosen on opposite sides of the wheel for contrasting or complementary schemes
- A harmonious scheme would use three neighbouring colours, creating a natural flow
- And for customers that want a high impact, bold scheme, you could use three colours from the wheel to form a triangle.

Exclusively available at B&Q and TradePoint, the Valspar Trade colour chip racks can act as a tangible version of a colour wheel: move left or right for different tones of the same colour, or move up or down for different colours in the same palette. The chip rack is divided into warm hues on the left-hand side of the rack and to the right of the lightbox are the cool hues.

Lightboxes help customers to see what their chosen colour would look like under different lights in their homes. Each panel on the chip rack also includes off-white chips, with a hint of colour dedicated to that specific section, as well as deeper accent colours for feature walls or areas to accentuate.

Fan decks work in a similar way, but are divided into colour families from warm shades, such as reds and yellows, to cool shades, such as greens and blues. The last range of colours are the off-whites, which can be found towards the back of the fan deck. A top tip when using a fan deck: If you know the name of the colour you are looking for, you can refer to the index found at back of the deck. The name of the colour, its number

and its page number in the fan deck will be there – making it easier for you to find the colour your customer wants.

By learning the basics, applying your knowledge, and taking advantage of the tools available, you can set yourself apart with an unbeatable service, and create personalised colour schemes for your customers, which they'll love for many years.

You can also be confident in the colours you choose with Valspar Trade paint. Its colour pigments are cleaner and finer, meaning that they have a purer colour. It also uses chlorine-grade titanium dioxide, which is whiter and brighter – ensuring a long-lasting, vibrant colour.

Valspar Trade can be tinted in TradePoint and B&Q stores across the country, using best-in-class tint machine, shaker and colour spectrometer. Customers can choose from 2,000 pre-selected colours or use its colour matching service to find the perfect match.

In fact, Valspar Trade can colour match to 2.2 million colours, which means your customers are sure to find something they love. ■





Gemma Walton Digital Marketing Executive at Brewers certainly knows how to market the Brewers brand online. With a degree in Retail Marketing and an MA in Digital Media, her job at Brewers includes curating digital content across platforms for an engaging and positive customer experience.

If you want to start thinking about ways in which you can increase visibility of your decorating business online, Gemma has some top tips to help you get started...



Three ways to market your business online

Get involved with the community

Joining decorating groups and local groups can be used to get your name out there. Engaging with posts through likes and comments exposes your business and gives you extra opportunities for potential customers to discover you.

Creating content for your social media platforms

If you are already present on social media channels, creating engaging content is the best way to build an audience. Take full advantage of your chosen platform's features and post often to increase visibility.

Be as authentic as possible so your customers get to know what you and your business are all about. You don't have to spend hours creating content, taking a quick snap of what you're up to that day is a great way to stay present online.

Generating and sharing reviews

Another great form of content is asking your customers to write reviews. There are many ways in which customers can do this, but simply asking them to write a testimonial for you to share online demonstrates to future customers how satisfied past customers are with your work.



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With a plethora of options available on today's market, choosing the correct ladders, platforms, and other types of equipment for working at height can be overwhelming and, at times, confusing. Given this, it may seem tempting to go for the first thing that catches the eye. However, taking the time to choose the right equipment for the job could just save a life. Here, Kris Hallee, Head of Product Development at Werner, discusses the factors that should be considered when choosing the most appropriate products for the task at hand.

Working at height How to stay safe



According to a Health and Safety Executive report, almost a quarter of fatal injuries in the workplace during 2021 and 2022 were caused by falling from height. So, while using ladders is a daily occurrence in the trade, using the wrong set for what is required increases the risk of injury. So, what should be considered when purchasing new equipment and what kind of products should be used for painting and decorating jobs?

Consider Regulations

Using products that allow tradespeople to work in line with Work at Height Regulations 2005 is essential. Such requirements are in place to prevent severe injury and fatalities when using ladders and platforms. The regulations stipulate that where work at height cannot be avoided, falls can be prevented by using the right type of equipment for the job at hand.

For example, it is vital that the access equipment used to complete a job is of the correct height. Without this, a worker may find themselves having to overreach to work on certain areas, which is a major safety risk. Similarly, the load a ladder can carry must not be exceeded in order to protect against breakages which can also cause serious harm to the user.

Of course, this is just a snippet of the guidance the regulations set out, so getting familiar with the requirements is encouraged. While there may seem a lot to consider there are many resources and training materials available to refer to and doing so will prevent accidents that have the potential to be fatal.

Adhere to Industry Standards

In addition, keeping up with changes to industry standards can be of immense benefit to those in the trade. Regular training to keep teams up to date with industry standards and regulations will ensure that everyone in the workplace has the knowledge they need to look out for the correct labelling on tools, be aware of the latest changes to standards, and their responsibilities in relation to these.

Part of working to regulations includes keeping up with and adhering to EN 131 standards for the professional use of ladders. Those who are using them for trade and industrial purposes must purchase ladders that meet this standard.

Rigorous testing to check stability, durability and strength in position is required to gain the EN 131 standard, and if these tests are passed, the product will be labelled accordingly. Getting familiar with the correct labelling will avoid any mistakes at the time of purchase.

Invest in Quality Ladders

It is incredibly important to do detailed research before purchasing equipment that has the potential to risk the safety of anyone in the workplace, wherever that may be. In adopting this practice, decorators will find that investing in high-quality ladders from the off will not only prevent accidents but will save money overall; eliminating the need to regularly replace faulty or poor equipment.

Ladders that are manufactured by trusted companies will meet key standards and the quality will be fit for >



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< the job. With this in mind, *purchasing second-hand equipment isn't recommended*, given that it is impossible to know of any past breakages or damage that have the potential to cause future problems.

However, it is worth noting that even if the ladder being used is new, or at least shows no obvious signs of damage, it should undergo an inspection each time it is needed, to make certain it is safe, and any issues can be identified and fixed.

Use accessories

To further prevent any unnecessary accidents there are many accessories that decorators can use to avoid having to climb up and down ladders to replenish materials and reduce any hazardous clutter.

Minimal space may tempt users to try and complete a job with their hands full, in order to avoid trips back and forth. However, this can result in a lack of balance and distraction, which can lead to unfortunate incidents.

Not only can the use of accessories help to keep workers safe, but they can also help decorators to get the job done faster, reducing breaks for topping up paint and switching brushes. Try accessories such as utility buckets to hold paint and job caddies to store paintbrushes, pens, and tape. It is well worth the investment to save time and ensure better safety.

Stepping up to Safety

According to the HSE's latest statistics, falls from height were the main cause of accidents and fatal injury in the workplace during 2021 and 2022.

However, Werner believes that these incidents can be significantly reduced, with the help of industry manufacturers and associations.

Therefore, in a bid to increase the safety of professionals who work at height, Werner launched its *Stepping Up to Safety* campaign last year. The campaign supports employers and employees in feeling confident and safe when working at height.

Find out more on the *Stepping up to Safety* campaign at www.wernerco.com/uk/ladder-safety ■



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So, you've gone self-employed in the past year or so and need to report taxable income via Self Assessment? *Great!*
Problem is – *you haven't completed a tax return before.* *Gulp*

Need to file your first Self Assessment tax return?

Things you need to know!

In truth, with a bit of knowledge, completing your Self Assessment tax return is nothing to worry about. More than 12 million of them are filed each year, by people from a wide range of backgrounds – *people just like you.*

You don't need to be an accountant or use one to complete your Self Assessment tax return, you can do it yourself. But before you try to complete your first one, here are some key things you should know.

SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS need to complete the main Self Assessment tax return (SA100) as well as a supplementary page (SA103S or SA103F), summarising their taxable self-employed income and costs.

You use the SA103S if your annual business turnover was below the VAT threshold in the tax year (£85k for the 2022/23) and you use SA103F if your turnover was higher.

You may need to complete and file other supplementary pages if you have other taxable income, for example, you also earn income from renting out UK property.

Within the SA100, you provide details of taxable income and any capital gains, as well as student loan repayments, savings interest, pension payments, annuities, donations to charity and tax reliefs and allowances that you wish to claim.

Allowable expenses

Self-employed people can claim for many business costs, including business premises heating, lighting, water, rates, stock and raw materials, travel, staff/subcontractor wages, office costs, insurance or bank charges, uniforms or safety clothing, marketing, training, and professional fees.

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Sole traders who work from home can claim a proportion of their domestic costs for utilities, Council Tax, mortgage interest or rent, repairs and maintenance, etc.

Rather than working out your actual business expenses, HMRC allows you to claim flat-rate 'simplified expenses' for running your business from home and business travel, visit GOV.uk to find out more about allowable expenses.

Need to know! If you're not sure whether a business cost is allowable, contact the Self Assessment helpline.

Completing your return

According to *Which?*, on average, it takes about two and a half hours to complete a Self Assessment tax return, while more experienced people can get it done in less than an hour. Some people do it in one session, others do it in two or three.

Top Tip! Before starting, read HMRC's guidance and help sheets, so that you better understand what information you'll need to enter.

Having all of your income and costs neatly summarised already in accounting software really will save you a lot of time when it comes to filling in your tax return.

Don't rush when filling out your return, otherwise you're more likely to make mistakes. Pick a time and a place where you'll be free from distractions, so you can concentrate fully on the job in hand.

You can file your Self Assessment tax return any time after 6 April, so don't leave it until the week before the online filing deadline of midnight on 31 January. You don't need that additional stress, right?

How much will you pay?

Your tax bill will be based on the figures you've reported in your Self Assessment tax return and the Income Tax into which your taxable income falls. Thanks to the Personal Allowance, you don't pay any Income Tax on the first £12,570 of your earnings (providing you don't earn more than £125,140 a year). This is in addition to other tax reliefs and allowances that you can claim.

The 20% Basic Rate of Income tax is payable on income between £12,571 and £50,270. The 40% Higher Rate of Income Tax is payable on income between £50,271 and £150,000. The 45% Additional Rate of Income Tax is payable on earnings of more than £150,000 a year (Income Tax bands are different in Scotland).

Self-employed sole traders normally pay two types of National Insurance contributions: Class 2 (£3.15 a week) if your profits are £6,725 or more a year; and Class 4 if your profits are £11,909 or more a year (9.73% on profits between £11,909 and £50,270; 2.73% on profits over £50,270: 2022/23 tax year for all figures quoted).

The deadlines for paying your tax bill are 31 January for any tax you owe for the previous tax year (it's called a 'balancing payment') and your first 'payment on account' (advance payments towards your tax bill, including Class 4 NIC), then 31 July for your second payment on account.

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Despite damp and mould being such a big issue in UK homes, a shocking 24% of those affected have no idea what is causing the problems. MyJobQuote's property and construction expert, Thomas Goodman, has delved further into this issue to determine exactly why condensation and mould are becoming a bigger issue and what can be done to tackle these problems.

If you have damp and mould in your home, you can be susceptible to certain health issues.

Damp and mould can increase your likelihood of developing respiratory problems. You may also be prone to allergies, respiratory infections, and asthma. Damp and mould can even lead to problems with your immune system.

Certain people are more sensitive to the effects of damp and mould than others, such as:

- Older people
- Babies and children
- Those with existing respiratory problems, such as asthma and allergies
- Those with existing skin problems, such as eczema
- Those with a weakened immune system, such as those going through chemotherapy



Irritants, allergens, and toxic substances

When you touch or inhale mould spores, this can cause an allergic reaction, such as red eyes, sneezing, a runny nose, and skin rashes. Moulds can also lead to asthma attacks.

Inhaling moulds can lead to nasal congestion, airway inflammation, wheezing, chest tightness, and a sore throat.

Long term exposure to damp and mould can sometimes even lead to death. Particularly in children and those with existing health conditions.

Why is mould a growing issue in UK Homes?

Simply, modern construction methods are adding to the problem. Homes are now made to be as energy efficient as possible, but some of the measures that we now take to make our homes more energy efficient such as draught-proofing, insulation, and double glazing, can decrease the natural air flow and ventilation in the home.

These solutions prevent warm air from exiting the home, and this results in higher humidity levels and, therefore, higher levels of condensation. >

THE DAMP DILEMMA

Ways to help prevent damp and mould

- Using extractor fans in bathrooms and kitchens
- Close internal doors when showering or cooking
- Cover pans when cooking
- Open bedroom windows for around 10 minutes when you wake up
- Leave a gap between furniture and external walls
- Dry clothing outdoors

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< Working from home can increase the problem

Since the pandemic, more people than ever are now working from home. The more time we spend in our homes, the more moisture we naturally create inside the home. This leads to an increase in the likelihood of condensation and damp.

Without taking the proper precautions and working on providing more adequate ventilation in the home throughout the day, we are creating a much bigger issue.

The cost of living crisis is also contributin

With the soar in energy prices, many UK homeowners are choosing not to turn on their heating and keep their windows closed as a way to save money and keep the heat in.

Not putting the heating on will result in colder surfaces in the home, and keeping the windows closed will result in no ventilation, causing the air to become stale and more likely to condense.

The only way to get around this is to raise the temperature or increase the ventilation in the home. However, with Brits currently doing everything they can to save money, this may not be that easy.

With a problem that is already on the rise, this year is set to be the worst yet for damp and mould. ■



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While tradespeople are able to find local work to support their business.



Painting after mould removal

The experts at Zinsser outline the following steps for painting over mould affected areas:

Prepare

All surfaces must be clean, dry and free from anything that will interfere with the adhesion of the materials to be applied. Remove loose and failing material by scraping or brushing with a stiff bristle brush to a sound edge. Feather sound edges with a fine grade abrasive paper. Remove all visible signs of organic growth and treat the areas with Zinsser Mould Killer in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Allow to dry.



In areas with remaining sound paint clean down with Zinsser Universal Cleaner & Degreaser to remove any contaminants. Rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove all residues. Allow to dry. Fill any cracks and small surface defects with a suitable filler as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Allow to dry. Rub down with a fine grade abrasive paper. Remove all dust.



Prime

Prime all stained, bare and filled areas with one coat of B-I-N® Primer Sealer in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Allow a minimum drying time of 45 minutes in normal drying conditions.



Paint

Decorate with two full coats of Perma-White® Interior Matt, Satin or Semi-Gloss in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Allow a minimum drying time of two hours between coats.



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Healthier Paint, Healthier Decorating

Finding ways to live a healthier life is important to all of us, but have you ever thought about how to make healthier paint choices? With low VOCs and a careful curation of ingredients, certain finishes can improve air quality and meet toy safety standards, which is perfect for healthier decorating for you and your clients.

Why choose low VOC paint?

VOCs stand for *Volatile Organic Compounds*. These are chemicals mainly found in solvent-based paints and coatings to help increase flow, application and drying time. Once applied, the VOCs evaporate, and this can affect air quality. Many water-based formulations on the market are now low on VOC and along with advancements in technology, it means that these paints can perform to the highest standards. Using these

paints are a healthier choice and are much better for the environment. If you or your client are sensitive to air quality, it is important to be aware of VOC content before you decide which paint is best for your project.

'Child Safe' paint

If your client has little ones, make sure a finish is 'Child Safe'. You will want to use a durable paint, but you might also wish it to be certified under *Toy Safety Standard EN71:3 (2019)* which is about the prevention of migration of certain elements.

For peace of mind, it's recommended that furniture paint used on cots, beds or toys meets this standard.

Several products have low VOC levels and are certified under the *Toy Safety Standard* – **Earthborn Claypaint**, **Little Greene Intelligent Matt** and **Intelligent Eggshell**, **Farrow & Ball Modern** and **Estate Emulsions**, **Rust-Oleum Satin** and **Gloss Furniture Paint**, **Annie Sloan Chalk Paint**, **Mylands Marble Matt** and **Mylands Wood & Metal Paint**. ■



Home to the largest range of high-quality paint, wallpaper, and woodcare supplies, **Brewers** has been the destination for decorators for over 100 years. Open to all, from the avid DIYer to the most experienced decorator and contractors, they stock the highest quality decorating brands to suit

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every kind of project. Across their network of over 190 stores, they offer decorating knowledge from experienced colleagues who are ready to serve all your decorating needs. www.brewers.co.uk



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this is performance

FLEX



Timber decking, before and after treatment with Dilunett.

Restoration and renovation of wood is so much better than discarding the old and buying new. We asked the wood care experts at Owatrol for their guidance when selecting different products.

Stripping wood surfaces can seem like an incredibly difficult task, not least because there are such a wide variety of different products available. Confusion combined with worry is often the main reason that people don't attempt these projects. However, with a little guidance, it needn't be a complicated task at all.

Our range of stripping products are each tailored for specific purposes, so no matter what is on your wood, there will be a perfect product for you.

Strip wood the right way

Aquanett

Aquanett is our solvent-free wood stripper specifically designed for removal of wood oils such as teak and linseed. It works extremely fast, with results in just 5 minutes! It is powerful enough to remove new, old and encrusted oils that have blackened the surface and can also be used to remove mill glaze when diluted. It has a gel-like consistency which allows you to use it on both horizontal and vertical surfaces and must always be neutralised with Net-Trol after use.



Dilunett

Dilunett is similar to Prepdeck in that it can be used for removal of oils, stains, paints etc. but it has a thick gel-like consistency that makes it perfect for use on both horizontal and vertical surfaces, as well as surfaces with intricate designs. It can remove up to 8 coats in a single application and can be left on the surface for up to 24 hours. Just like Prepdeck and Aquanett, Dilunett will also need to be neutralised with Net-Trol after use.



DSP 800

DSP 800 is what we recommend if you don't know exactly what is on your wood because it will remove any type of coating – yes, even 2-pack paints and powder coatings! DSP 800 also leaves the wood completely clean and so does not require neutralising after use and it can even be re-coated in as little as 6 hours. What's more, DSP 800 is also very fast acting with results in just 5 minutes, and its gel-like consistency allows it to be used on horizontal and vertical surfaces. ■



Prepdeck

Prepdeck is our water-based 3-in-1 stripper, cleaner and mill glaze remover. It is capable of stripping out oils, stains, paints and grade stamps on weathered wood, as well as mill glaze on new wood.



Prepdeck has a liquid consistency so should be used on horizontal surfaces only and must be neutralised with Net-Trol after use.



You can order any of these products through the Owatrol website with next working day delivery on orders placed before 3pm

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This spring, paint and wallpaper maker Farrow & Ball is unveiling its most revolutionary finish to date, the all-new Dead Flat®.

Farrow & Ball launch all-new Dead Flat®

The latest, industry-leading innovation from the heritage brand is its most matt finish ever with added durability. And it's multi-surface too, suitable for walls, woodwork and metal. The ultimate choice for colour drenching, the completely flat look surrounds spaces in richer, uninterrupted colour from ceiling to skirting board and even over radiators. One paint to cover every area, saving time and money when decorating.

Charlotte Cosby, Creative Director at Farrow & Ball, comments: "Dead Flat® is a unique combination of truly fantastic features: it's matt, durable and multi-surface. The super matt quality has the incredible effect of making our colours look even richer, especially the darker shades. We're thrilled to launch this exciting new finish and I can't wait to see it transform our customers' homes all over the world."

Farrow & Ball
01202 876141
www.farrow-ball.com

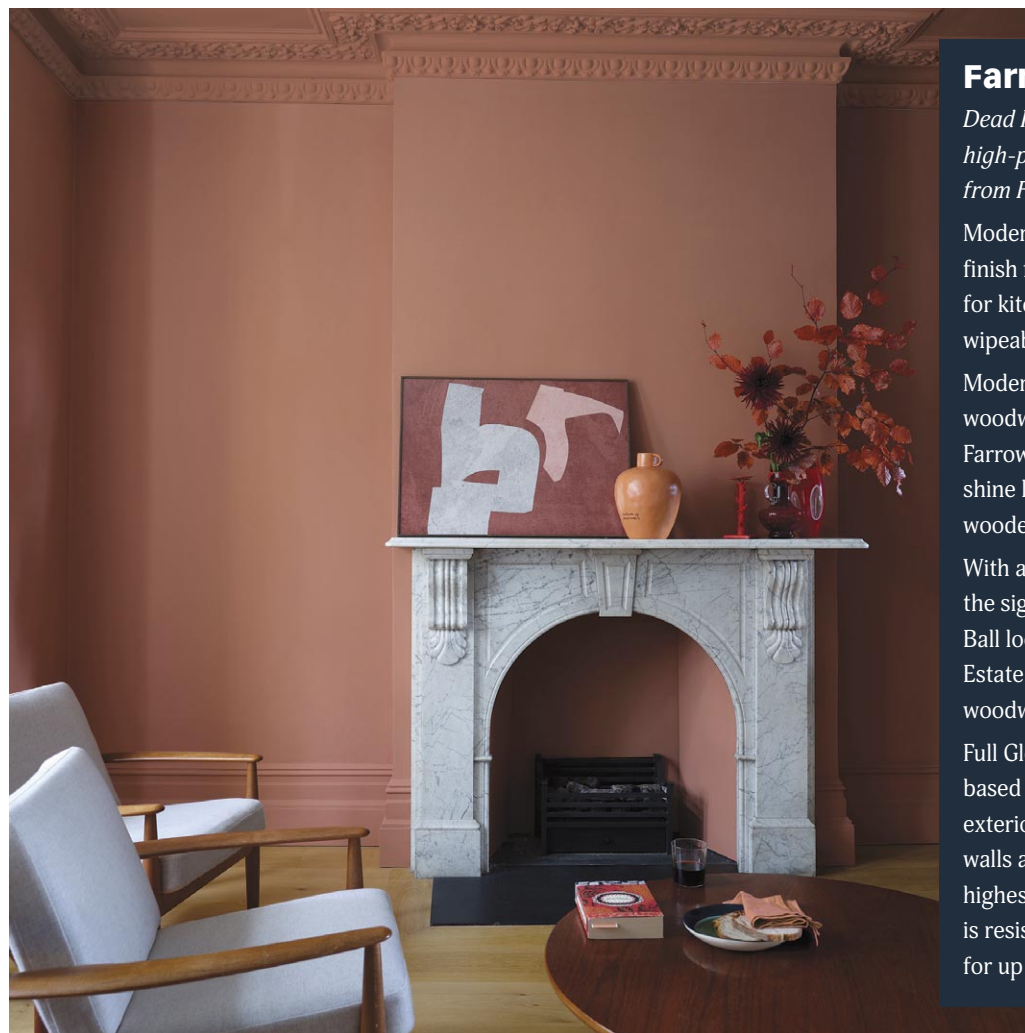
The new Dead Flat® formulation has been refined by the technical experts at Farrow & Ball in Dorset over the last five years. >





NEW DEAD FLAT® • PAINT PERFECTED

Multi-Surface • Durable • Ultra Matt



Farrow & Ball Finishes

Dead Flat® is one of several high-performing interior finishes from Farrow & Ball...

Modern Emulsion is the brand's choice finish for interior walls and ceilings, ideal for kitchens or bathrooms as it is washable, wipeable and protected against mould.

Modern Eggshell, the partner finish for woodwork and metal, is the toughest Farrow & Ball interior finish offering a mid-shine look which can also be used on wooden floors and furniture.

With a 2% sheen, Estate Emulsion offers the signature, chalky, very matt Farrow & Ball look for walls and ceilings. Similarly, Estate Eggshell is a satin finish suitable for woodwork and metal.

Full Gloss is an ultra-high-gloss, water based finish suitable for both interior and exterior wood and metal, as well as interior walls and ceilings. At 95% sheen, it's the highest-shine finish from Farrow & Ball and is resistant to flaking, peeling and fading for up to six years.

< The ability to create such an incredibly matt and impressively durable product is thanks to a breakthrough ingredient. Combined with a precise blend of other, quality paint ingredients it delivers the signature Farrow & Ball look with reimagined chemistry, so beautiful spaces, stay beautiful.

Dead Flat® boasts just a 2% sheen, which dramatically minimises light bounce, so the eye only sees colour from every angle. Not only does this increase how rich the colour appears, but it also minimises imperfections. It is also easy to apply, with exceptional opacity even after just one coat.

Dead Flat® is a practical and aesthetic choice, it's washable and wipeable with a Class 1 scrub rating (the highest rating possible). This durability makes it ideal for high-traffic areas like hallways and playrooms, especially as it's also toy safe. Like all Farrow & Ball finishes, Dead Flat® is water based and low odour too. Plus, it only contains trace VOCs. ■



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Using a demolition hammer will save you a lot of back ache, compared to using a traditional sledge hammer for breaking down various materials such as wooden walls, concrete surfaces and tile flooring. We take a look at a range in this review, from medium sized to rather large. Sealey, Screwfix and Makita sent along their wares, and this is what we found. All prices quoted are without VAT.



The first machine we looked at was Sealey's **RHB1300 Breaker Hammer**, a powerful breaker sporting an SDS MAX chuck. The body is equipped with vibration reducing shock absorbers to aid comfort, and is supplied with a variable speed trigger. Supplied with a blown plastic case, this is a compact machine when put against the others in the line-up, and at 6 kilograms, it's the lightest too.

Another Sealey machine with a bit more grunt, is the **RHB1600 Demolition Hammer**, very powerful breaker hammer featuring a chunky 1" SDS-Hex chuck. This heavy duty breaker has vibration reducing rubber grips, an anti-fatigue trigger-lock and a 360 degree handle. Supplied with SDS-Hex chisels, flat and pointed and a metal case.

Makita's Cordless **HM001G** is one of the lightest in this line up, using a SDS Max size of chisels. This is a very powerful and comfortable machine to use, with good rubber covered handles. The test hammer we were provided was not supplied with chisels, but comes with a

fast 28 minute charger, a spare battery, an excellent case and a container of lubricant for the chisel. The **Makita** would be good for most jobs, except for the heaviest, but with a price approaching £700 it's for the serious user.

Macallister's 1700-A is a high value machine for comparatively low cost. A big chunky breaker using SDS-Hex chisels, it's supplied in a strong plastic case with two chisels, one pointed and the other flat. A wrench is also included to remove and replace the cover so you can pack grease for lubrication. Owing to its weight, care must be taken when carrying and using this heavy piece of equipment.

Finally, a very impressive looking demolition hammer, the Screwfix exclusive **Erbauer EBR1750** uses heavy duty SDS-Hex chisels. For lubrication, the grease box cover can be removed, using a suitable hex key, repack the gearbox with suitable grease, and replace the cover. When finished using, clean up and store in a safe dry place.

See over the page for all the technical specifications! >



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Sealey RHB1300

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Weight	6Kg

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Sealey RHB1600

Chuck Type	SDS MAX
Impact Energy	45J
Impact Rate	2000 BPM
Vibration	18.65m/s ²
Weight	14Kg

Makita HM001G

Chuck Type	SDS MAX
Impact Energy	9.4J
Impact Rate	2650 BPM
Vibration	6.0m/s ²
Weight	7.1Kg (inc BL4050F battery)



Price £699.99 from

SCREWFIX

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SCREWFIX

MacAllister MSBR1700-A

Chuck Type	SDS Hex
Impact Energy	50J
Impact Rate	1600 BPM
Vibration	21.11m/s ²
Weight	16.2Kg



Erbauer EBR1750

Chuck Type	SDS Hex
Impact Energy	45J
Impact Rate	1600 BPM
Vibration	8.47m/s ²
Weight	15kg

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Graham & Brown New custom wallpaper collections

Graham & Brown has added four new designs to its Custom Wallpaper collection. The Congo, Grizedale, Kimono and Bloem custom murals can be ordered via the online custom design tool, so each can be printed in a bespoke size to fit each individual room, ensuring minimal waste in off cuts.

These murals are suitable for any room in the home and can be perfectly partnered with four of our paint colours and coordinating blinds or curtains.

All of these bespoke wallpapers are further customisable with four different finishes available, depending on the desired look. Each paper finish, Fibrous, Mica-Fibrous, Durable Smooth and Durable Fabric Effect, offers a key benefit or feature.

www.grahambrown.com/uk



Hamilton Perfection Paper Hanging and Dusting Brush

A Hamilton Perfection paint brush is usually a staple in most professionals' toolboxes, but Hamilton also offer a ringed dusting brush and paper hanging brush. The traditional manufacturing method ensures both strength and rigidity, as well as looking great too!

The Perfection Paper Hanging Brush is set with nine rings in a beautifully crafted, comfortable Beechwood handle with finger groove for easier grip. The specially designed filament mix combines both strength and softness.

The Dusting Brush is set into three rings, again providing both strength and durability for dusting off debris and dust prior to redecoration, pick one up where you usually buy your Hamilton tools!

www.hamiltondecoratingtools.co.uk

FLEX IW 750 and IW 950

FLEX has launched two new cordless impact wrenches, with extremely low vibration thanks to a decoupled tool head, making them gentle on the user while at the same time protecting the 18-volt batteries.



Designed for a wide range of jobs, for example when screwed connections are rusted or have seized up, the variable speed and stroke rate enables users to handle all tasks and while focussing on performance. A switch to change the rotation direction allows easy switchover. The reinforced aluminium housing with the greatest wall thickness in its class provides protection even in the toughest jobs.

www.flex-tools.com/en-gb

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Farrow & Ball Dead Flat®

All-new Dead Flat® emulsion is the most matt finish from Farrow & Ball, creating even richer colour from every angle. Multi-surface for walls, woodwork and metal, take it across panelling, skirting boards and radiators for an effortless, full-room transformation. Washable, scrubbable and scuff resistant, it's perfect for hallways, living rooms and nurseries.

All-new Dead Flat® is ultra matt for richer, deeper colour, with only 2% sheen even at an 85° viewing angle, delivering the fullest expression of Farrow & Ball colour, particularly with darker shades.

A Class 1 scrub rating means it can easily be cleaned without leaving shiny patches or water marks, with colour fully locked in place (no colour transfer onto cleaning cloths!). Dead Flat® is easy to apply with minimal paint splatter, and exceptional opacity.

www.farrow-ball.com



Festool GHS 25 I ear protection

Noise on the construction site and in the workshop is not only harmful for the ears, but also distracts you from your work. The new GHS 25 I devices from Festool turn the volume down to a healthy level, and also allow you to simultaneously make phone calls or enjoy your favourite music via Bluetooth® whilst fulfilling the requirements for professional ear protection according to EU standard EN352.

The innovative microphone technology means you hear only what you really want to hear, in conversation mode you can hear ambient noises such as speech, so you don't have to remove the ear protection to talk to colleagues.

The GHS 25 I is also in line with the IP67 standard, protected against dust, water and sweat. With up to 13 hours of runtime, the earplugs can simply be recharged in the charging case supplied.

www.festool.co.uk



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Protecting client's homes has never been easier with Taktec® Carpet Protector. This heavy-duty self-adhesive film is designed to withstand the demands of any job from office fit-out, to home redecoration. It provides long lasting protection from spills, sprays, dirt and general foot traffic.

The unique Taktec adhesive sticks to the carpet surfaces and won't lift unless pulled. Anti-slip and anti-trip to reduce the risk of injury, it's also waterproof to protect from liquids and spillages.

Heavy duty, premium quality film designed to withstand the job requirements, the premium white colour means any snags can be identified to prevent floor damage. With no residue, and non transferrable print, the protector leaves surfaces clean when the film is removed, Carpet Protector is available in rolls of 25m, 50m and 100m.

Also available in Flame Retardant Carpet Protector, Hard Floor and Glass to cover all protection needs.

www.antinoxglobal.com/taktec/

Polyvine Decorators Varnish

Wallpaper excites the people at Polyvine. Why? Because they have the varnish to protect it.

Polyvine Decorators Varnish is used worldwide to protect wallpaper, and if you are a decorator, this varnish should be in your toolkit.

Available in a Dead Flat finish so you can keep the stunning look of matte papers.

Decorators Varnish is water resistant, making it perfect for bathrooms, and also offers UV protection to reduce colour fading.

www.polyvine.com



Hamilton Prestige Oval Angle Cut Brush

Get sharp lines and perfect corners with this 'hidden gem', oval angle cut brush from Hamilton.

The fine tipped high specification synthetic filaments deliver a reliable, durable paint brush for a quality job. The angle cut head is designed for precision and increases paint pick-up for greater coverage for larger areas. This brush is ideal for painting windows, doors and woodwork with all paints.

The rounded, long wooden handle give comfortable grip and allows keen precision and control.

www.hamiltondecoratingtools.co.uk



Timbabuild Starter kit

Timbabuild is a comprehensive range of products designed to enable high quality, durable and cost-effective timber repairs to be carried out, with the minimum of effort and maximum efficiency.

Timbabuild Wood Repair Resin is a two-part epoxy cartridge delivery system which is designed for ease of use, strength and flexibility in professional paint and refurbishment contracting. Timbabuild repairs are guaranteed for 50 years and are always stronger than the original wood.

Manufactured in Britain, this attractive and robust and compact beech starter kit case contains all of the elements required to carry out professional timber refurbishments.

The Starter Kit contains EHB60 400ml Repair Resin, ERC10 400ml Rapid Adhesive, EWS Epoxy Primer, Metal Timbabuild Extrusion Tool, Timbaglaze 290ml Hybrid Polymer Glazing Sealant / Putty Replacement, FINISH 300g 2-Part Rapid Set Filler, Mixing Board, a Pair of Latex Gloves, 2" Stainless Steel Filling Knife, and 3" Stainless Steel Filling Knife.

www.timbabuild.co.uk



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So how does it work?



Werner Multi-Purpose Telescopic ladder

Werner have launched a new Multi-Purpose Telescopic ladder range. This new and improved 3-in-1 ladder is extremely versatile, offering a stepladder, extension ladder and stairwell ladder all in one compact, lightweight product.

Certified to the latest EN131-4:2020 safety standard, this professional ladder features adjustable telescopic sections with simple to operate hinge locks, allowing for easy conversion between the three modes. Spring loaded 'J' locks enable the user to adjust the height of the telescopic ladder quickly and easily.

This robust, high-grade aluminium multi-purpose ladder has a load capacity of 150kg, and not only is it user friendly, it also has compact folded dimensions, making it easy to handle, transport and store.

The splayed base, with heavy-duty slip-resistant feet, is designed to provide maximum stability in any position, giving the user added peace of mind. To protect work surfaces it has non-marring rubber foot pads, while protective edge bracing provides enhanced strength to the bottom of the ladder.

Available in three sizes, with an extension mode maximum length of between 2.94m and 5.10m, the Multi-Purpose Telescopic series offers a lightweight, multi-purpose solution to working at height and is uniquely placed to be able to offer professionals a solution for a multitude of jobs.

www.wernerco.co.uk



Festool CXS 18 and TXS 18

Lightweight, compact, versatile and surprisingly powerful. The 18-volt CXS 18 and TXS 18 compact screwdrivers are two first-class helpers for a wide range of everyday tasks, thanks to their brushless EC-TEC motor.

Both designs share technical specifications, but the unique shape of the CXS allows for precise work in the drilling and screwdriving axis, while the classic TXS shape ensures easy handling at a shorter distance from the workpiece.

A FastFix interface and the CENTROTEC system allow numerous attachments to be changed over quickly. With bit garage, belt clip and a powerful 18 V battery, the new CXS/TXS 18 leaves nothing to be desired for easier work, and the integrated and adjustable LED light allows for precise work even in dark corners.

www.festool.co.uk



Monarch Detail & Finishing Brush Set

The Monarch Detail & Finishing Brush Set has been carefully curated to ensure that each project has the right brush, every time. Designed for the painter needing multiple brushes to complete the task to a high-quality finish.

Each brush offers synthetic tapered filaments to provide a professional finish. The set is simple and versatile to use; with slimline, ergonomic and colour-coded handles for quick brush identification together with easy to clean filaments that are suitable for water based and oil-based paints.

The set offers a selection of brushes and sizes to help ensure that all aspects of the task are covered, a 50mm Walls, Doors & Trims brush; 50mm Cutting in & Framing brush; 22mm Windows & Doors brush; 38mm Moulding & Skirting brush; and 63mm Moulding & Skirting brush.

www.monarchpainting.co.uk/stockists/

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Little Greene National Trust Papers III

Little Greene have released National Trust Papers III, a versatile new collection of wallpapers transforming historical design into a timeless collection.

National Trust Papers III is an authentic collection of eight historic wallpaper designs adapted and recoloured for use within the modern interior. Comprising 45 colourways, this collection represents over 200 years of decoration.

Employing traditional methods of printing that have remained unchanged for over 100 years, the collection comprises an array of hand-painted birds, stylised florals and scrolling trails, as well as a traditional 'Toile de Jouy'.

The National Trust Papers III collection offers a new approach to pattern colouration within the Little Greene collections, reinterpreting the colour drenching paint trend that has led to enveloping, intimate interiors, with many of the wallpapers featuring bold tonal colourways.

A contribution from the sale of every roll of Little Greene wallpaper is made in support of the National Trust.

www.littlegreene.com



Earthborn Lady Bug

If you're looking to bring warmth and sophistication into your home, look no further than Earthborn's Colour of the Year 2023, Lady Bug – a rich, jewel-toned burgundy.

This elegantly striking shade envelops spaces with opulent colour, aligning perfectly with interior design and home décor styles for the year ahead.

As we enter the new year, interiors are moving away from the ever-popular soft neutrals and leaning towards cocooning colour and statement spaces. Lady Bug's sumptuous and earthy undertone offers a plethora of palette options, acting as a wonderfully rich base to both delicate and daring shades. A dramatic yet cosy hue, Lady Bug adds endless warmth and timeless style to both contemporary and traditional homes alike.

www.earthbornpaints.co.uk



Barretine Armourflex Hardwax Oil

Tough on stains, dirt & scratches. Quality results every time.

With over 140 years experience as a UK manufacturer based in Bristol, Barretine specialise in Professional, high quality wood protection coatings. Barretine's Hard Wax Oil is the new addition to the Armourflex specialist high performance coating range, and offers an outstanding finish with exceptional wear characteristics. Containing a blend of natural oils and waxes, suitable for protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of all interior wood surfaces including hardwood, softwood, parquet and veneer.

Inspired by nature, led by design, Armourflex Hard Wax Oil is certified Food & Toy Safe when dry to EN 1186:2002 & EN71:3. As an elegant and protective finish, it complements a range of modern and classic interior styles, whilst protecting the clients' investment.

Celebrating the newly released Armourflex Hardwax Oil, Barretine is offering an opportunity to redeem 30% off the purchase price from selected stockists by leaving a review, just scan the QR code!

Trade confidence is already growing in this elegant and protective finish and the manufacturer is keen to hear what more the trade has to say, so here is your opportunity!

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