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Summer 2023

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Our Summer Edition of the Professional Painter and Decorator Magazine focuses on the exterior, with information on durable, hard-wearing products from major brands, colour choices, cleaning surface techniques and a roundup of tried and tested high-pressure washers.

Design is all about inspiration, and expert decorative painter Cait Whitson gives design ideas and application techniques for working with metallic paints. Impress your clients with your knowledge of incorporating the pink Barbiecore trend in home decoration.

Plan ahead and book in time for the Painting and Decorating Show on 21-22 November at the CBS Arena in Coventry with an early registration. Check out the full preview; with over 100 exhibitors, it is the go-to event for those working in the sector.

Get the latest on new and updated products in marketplace section. Plus, there's a chance to win some great prizes with competitions from Dulux Trade and Bradite Paints.

Don't forget that you can also share your projects with us, just email ppdeditorial@saintpublicity.co.uk

Catherine Saint, Editor



44 Dealing with condensation and black mould

46 Step-up your ladder safety



48 TestDrive – David Stokes' verdict on the VW Crafter

52 Clean and restore decking – with Owatrol



54 Pressure washer round-up

58 The Gear Guide – Products for professional decorators

4 Trade news

18 Working with metallic paint

– Cait Whitson provides some pointers

22 Barbiecore

– Embrace the latest interiors trend



24 Durable exterior finishes

– from Little Greene

28 Projects

– A look at work using Bradite Paints

32 Painting concrete floors



36 Exterior colour confidence

38 Creating content for social media



40 Choosing the right brush – from Purdy

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Advertising

Richard Daynes
01442 832715
richarddaynes@btinternet.com

Editorial

Catherine Saint Publicity
07941 590183
ppdeditorial@saintpublicity.co.uk

Production

empathicVisions
07789 725074
ppd@empathicvisions.co.uk

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- Products
- Projects
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Win with new improved Diamond Matt

DULUX TRADE HAS reformulated its popular Diamond Matt range to deliver top performance and improved sustainability. The durable, easy to work product is now 99.9% VOC free and compliant with green building accreditations BREEAM2, LEED3 and WELL. It also delivers ultimate durability and is compliant with BS EN ISO 11998 Class 1 and BS 7719 Class C and can withstand 10,000 scrubs (that's the equivalent of five hours non-stop scrubbing!).



To ensure that it lives up to decorators' expectations and genuinely delivers on the benefits promised, Dulux Trade Diamond Matt has undergone rigorous testing, as part of the Tested & Approved product testing process (find out more about the process at www.duluxtrade.co.uk/testedandapproved).

Matt Gray, Skills Development Consultant at Dulux Academy, AkzoNobel, said: "We take pride in the fact that Dulux Trade Diamond Matt offers superior benefits and painters and decorators who recommend it to clients can be safe in the knowledge that they are working with a sustainable choice that has been 'Tested & Approved'. Dulux Trade Diamond Matt is a trusted product for the industry, suitable for a wide range of projects."

For more on Diamond Matt, see www.duluxtrade.co.uk/diamondmatt ■

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Dulux Trade is giving one lucky winner the chance to get their hands on a **Makita 18V Cordless Radio** (with battery and charger included), as well as a **Dulux Trade bundle** including t-shirt, hat and powerbank. **Five runner up winners** will also receive the Dulux Trade bundle comprising a t-shirt, hat and powerbank.

This exciting competition is all in the name of celebrating the new formulation Diamond Matt – retaining its durable finish, now 99.9% VOC free!

**Enter here before 11:59pm on 15/09/23
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Bradite One Can is fast becoming the go-to, single-pack paint for professionals looking for a quick-drying product that covers virtually any surface.

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Taking part couldn't be easier; all you have to do is share an image of your One Can project on social media and tag **@braditepaints**, and you'll be entered into the draw. *It's that simple!*

The first entry picked at random when the competition closes on **31 August 2023** will win the top prize. We'll also pick **two runners up to win £250 to spend on Bradite One Can.**

The winners will be contacted via direct message by the official **@braditepaints** account.

Good luck!



For T&Cs go to www.bradite.com/competitions

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* Find out more about the process at duluxtrade.co.uk/testedandapproved

** Based on in-can VOC content, measured in accordance with ISO 11890-2:2013.



Skills development team expands

THIS YEAR DULUX Academy celebrated its seventh birthday and marked the occasion by welcoming three new associates to its skills development team: James Wildish, Georgie Baker and Steve Dove.

The growth of Dulux Academy over the last seven years and the new initiatives it now provides required the need to expand the team to keep up with demand. The quality and credibility of the Dulux Academy team is a real testament to the successes it has had to date, the biggest milestone so far this year being over 15,000 people have been trained over the 13 Dulux Academy locations operating nationwide.

Dulux Academy has always adapted to the ever-changing landscape of the sector, and it provides invaluable training solutions both online and in physical locations, including purpose-built spaces within the Dulux Decorator Centre network. The Dulux Academy digital offer expands to free live workshops and a 24-hour learning Hub, which hosts online courses and is available to anyone who has attended a Dulux Academy course.

Those who have taken part in Dulux Academy training will already be familiar with some of the skills development consultants, Matt Gray, Mark Rigby, Tony Pearson-Young, Nicola Holmes and Scott Oliver, and will have experienced the broad knowledge and expertise they have and share.

New for 2023, James Wildish will provide courses on spraying, uPVC spraying in particular, while Steve Dove will focus on business development and communication, and Georgie Baker's specialism will be social media.

Vickie Mather, Dulux Academy Lead at AkzoNobel, comments: "The spray courses we currently provide are very popular and well attended and by working with James, we can now offer the highly requested uPVC spray training and demonstrate how it can unlock new business for our audience.

"We have also observed that professionals are looking for support in expanding their business skills and with tasks away from the tools, such as pricing and estimating, selling skills and marketing, something that Steve can provide. Additionally, painting and decorating professionals are keen to understand the benefits that social media can have for their business, and are keen to expand their knowledge here, which is where Georgie's new courses will be popular."

For more information about Dulux Academy and explore the courses available, visit www.duluxacademy.co.uk ■

The new associates

James Wildish



Well known within the industry, James is bringing his spray expertise and 15 years of industry knowledge to Dulux Academy, with a focus on uPVC spraying. Having benefited from business mentors himself, James is hoping to inspire today's painters and decorators with new technology and future ways of working.

Having started his career as a domestic decorator, James was always keen to continue learning in the field, and after working for a firm for four years, he decided to become self-employed and began training in spraying and decorative finishes. Two years later, he had set up a commercial decorating company, employing 18 painters. James went on to specialise in uPVC and kitchen spraying. James is now proud to bring his skills and expertise into the Academy and continue to inspire and train decorators.

Steve Dove

With 38 years of experience, and a highly respected Dulux Select Decorator, Steve will support training in business development and communication, from understanding and managing cashflow, pricing and quoting, to business admin and paperwork and selling and promoting a business.



Steve gained a wealth of experience from having run his own decorating business for over three decades and with that he has learnt how to win work through offering the best service, rather than the cheapest price. He is bringing his 'can-do' attitude to the Dulux Academy and encouraging painting and decorating professionals to do anything they can to continue to learn the trade and never stop learning, as well as focus on what customers need and provide excellent services.

Georgie Baker



Multi-award-winning business owner, Georgie specialised in property management and refurbishment for the past 10 years. Georgie's new associate position will focus on bringing decorators the tools and skills they need to help develop their social media platforms, websites and boosting their SEO.

Georgie is bringing his new-generation approach to the team and his experience as a multiskilled tradesperson, will resonate with delegates, as he can empathise with many experiences decorators may face in their careers. His piece of advice to those starting the industry, is to not get discouraged by mistakes – some of the greatest growth can come from mistakes.





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The show that covers every

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IT'S JUST A few months until the doors open at the 2023 National Painting and Decorating Show (21, 22 November), so it's time to start planning your visit to the biggest and best annual event for the decorating trade. Now in its 29th year, this event showcases proven best sellers and is the launchpad for the latest products, materials, textures, colours, trends and techniques.

Reflecting this year's theme, the P&D Show really does 'cover everything' - including paints and wallcoverings, decorating tools and sundries, woodcare and decorative effects, and surface preparation and remedial treatments.

Bringing together professional decorators, contractors, stockists and suppliers, this is the only

place to see the best this vibrant, lucrative industry has to offer all under one roof.

Over 100 leading national and international manufacturers representing thousands of brands will again be on hand, eager to demonstrate their latest products, establish industry partnerships, and offer valuable tips and advice to the thousands of visitors from throughout the UK who make their way each year to Coventry's conveniently located CBS Arena.

The National Painting and Decorating Show – where else can you be among the first to see the latest products, meet with fellow decorators, pick up valuable educational and training tips, and profit from exciting show-only deals? It just makes good commercial sense.

Don't delay – Register today!

Entry to the P&D Show is free, but why not pre-register to fast track your entry? Simply scan the QR code or visit the website for tickets

Plus, each day the first 1000 visitors to arrive will receive a special Goody Bag packed full of sample products and promotional items.

So be an early bird and bag a load of goodies!



www.paintshow.co.uk



thing!

MANUFACTURERS

All roads lead to Coventry

Celebrating world-wide innovation, this year's show will feature products and systems from many countries, including USA, Canada, New Zealand, Scandinavia and several European countries.

Dip in and win!

As you shop the show, watch out for the Lucky Dip bucket and be sure to have a go at grabbing some great gifts and promotional items, because everyone's a winner!

Watch this space!

New for 2023 is the Business Booster Theatre, where experts will be on hand with plenty of advice to help pro decorators maximise their profits, achieve best practice and streamline their operations. And with the focus on innovation and techniques, the Intech Theatres, sponsored by Packexe, will be buzzing with live demos of the latest products hitting the decorating market.

Further details will be revealed in the run-up to the show, so keep visiting the website for updates.

Win a vanload of tools!

Ciret's Grand Prize Draw was such a success at last year's show that the exhibitor is again offering hundreds of pounds' worth of premier quality decorating tools and ancillaries from the Rota, Kana, Masq and Prep brands. A draw card will be given to all visitors on entry and prizes worth £1000, £500 and £250 will be drawn on both afternoons of the show. >



Check out this stellar line-up!

Abode Academy	Meller Ventures (KOBEX paints)
AJ Systems Europe	Mirka UK
Albany	Monarch
Architextural	Mould Growth Consultants
APCT	Nour Painting Tools
Axus Décor	N Smith Box
Barrettine	Osmo UK
Bradite	Oxera Repair Products
Bedec Products	Packexe
Benjamin Moore UK	PaintTech Training Academy
Big Wipes	Painting and Decorating Association
Brewers	Painting and Decorating News
Brush Wizards	Paintshack
Caparol	Paintwell
Coo Var	Pioneer Brush
Coral Tools	PlastiKote
Checktrade	Polyvine
Ciret	Professional Painter and Decorator
Clarendon Designs	Purdy
Clever Paints	Q1 Premium Masking Solutions
Coleman Bros	QTech/TriTech
Crown Decorating Centres	Premier Paint Roller Europe
Crown Paints	ProDec
CT1/CTEC	Protek Products
Dalapro	Repair Care
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Deltac Tape	Robert Bosch
Dripless Inc	Roomvo
Dulux Academy	Rustins
Dulux Decorator Centre	SHC Solutions – Isomat
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Flex Power Tools UK	Tembe
Fluxaf and Lacq	tesa UK
Frog Tape and KIP Tape	Tikkurila UK
Go!Paint	Timbabuild Epoxy Wood Repair
Graphenstone Paints	Tritech Industries
Gyproc	3M
Hamilton Decorating Tools	TradeKart
Icon Protection	Trivec Paint and Eco Solutions
Indasa Abrasives	Two Fussy Blokes
Kolorbond Paints	UltraGrime
Lick	Valpaint S.p.A
Little Greene Paint Co	Vantainer
London Decorators Merchants	Verbo BV
Maston Oy	Wagner
MAXVAC	Wickes
	WRX Trade

Osmo goes country style

Osmo presents its latest exterior opaque range, Country Shades, whilst launching their UK-wide Tinting System that can produce many Osmo products in an endless array of colours and finish options.



Watch and learn

Visit stand 81 to explore PaintTech Training Academy's range of training courses. Also, see first-hand the live epoxy resin demos showcasing the endless possibilities of this excellent product.



New members welcome at PDA

The non-profit Painting and Decorating Association is the only UK-wide trade body for painters and decorators. Visit stand 96 to discuss the benefits of membership and get 20% off new memberships.



Monarch debut

Monarch Painting is excited to be exhibiting at the P&D Show for the first time ever! At Stand 32, you'll see some impressive products, including the iconic D&F brush range.

It pays to be a TradePro

In the Trade? Say hello to the Wickes team and find out how you can get 10% off every time you shop as a TradePro member.

Got a problem? Bedec has the solution

Visit Bedec Products at stand 54 to see its full problem solving paint range, plus check out a new range of products being launched this year.



See what's new from Ciret

Ciret will be demonstrating some of its new and innovative KANA paint brushes, ROTA Rollers, MASQ masking products, and PREP tools. Drop by the stand and see for yourself.



Timbapbuild has plenty of action

Timbapbuild will showcase its brand new 'basic' starter kit, featuring live product demos, tips, hints and advice, plus show-only prices on several ranges. Don't miss the new EWS Primer dispensing system.

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FLEX

FLEX provides professional tradespeople with precisely the power tools and service that they enjoy using and that deliver results they are proud of. Visit the stand to find out more.

Could it be your lucky day?

Pop over to the Brewers and Albany stands for fun and games, where you'll get the chance to win a fantastic prize and grab a free goody bag!

Brewers

DECORATOR CENTRES

Treasures await



On stand 98, Graphenstone will display its full product portfolio, including air purifying lime paint ranges containing Graphene. The company encourages the use of sustainable coatings, and you can see their new Treasured collection, curated with the Ashmolean Museum.



See it here first!

Visitors to the 2023 P&D Show will be the first to see additions to Axis Decor's Silk Touch brush and roller collections, and some new product concepts that will change the way you work!

Iconic results

Visit stand 52 to learn about the Ram Board, Trimaco and Antinox ranges of heavy duty temporary floor and surface protection products.



See Mirka in action

Attendees can put the Mirka LEROS and Mirka LEROS-S through their paces, so they can witness first-hand how these versatile tools make easy work of the toughest surfaces.



A organisers would like to say a BIG thank you to the sponsors, who include Coral Tools, Hamilton Decorating Tools, Axis Décor, Crown Paints, FrogTape, PaintTech Training Academy, Gyproc, Mirka UK, Packex and tesa, for all their invaluable support.

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A brush with diversity

The rise of female decorators

IT'S NO REVELATION to suggest that traditionally, the painting and decorating landscape has been male dominated in both a professional capacity and as a vocational pathway. While it's true that women remain woefully under-represented in this industry at around 4%, signs point to interest being very much on the rise.

Bucking the trend is Tameside College, which last year saw an impressive 37.5% intake of female painting and decorating apprentices. Some of this shift can undoubtedly be attributed to societal changes and gender equality within the workplace. The construction industry as a whole has seen a significant rise in female employees over the last decade or so.

Other factors are the popularity and influence of social media, which has given a platform to showcase work and abilities, leading to further support and encouragement. Seeing females in this field sharing their achievements online has undoubtedly piqued the interest of young women considering a career after school.

That was certainly the case for award-winning painting and decorator graduate Courtney Maddison, "We have more role models now, and we're able to actually interact. When I first set up my account on Instagram, I started hunting out female decorators for inspiration and guidance. I've found a lot of older female decorators who have shown me, and I'm sure thousands of others, that there is a place in the trade for us."

An unexpected creative outlet

Decorating can also offer a creatively fulfilling and rewarding experience some may not have previously considered when searching for professions.



Jade Oakes

Jade Oakes used her pre-existing interests to help parley a career in the trade, "I did art all the way through school and considered an art degree, but ultimately it wasn't for me. I had a friend who was a painter and decorator. He took me on [as an apprentice] and I've never looked back."

Courtney's route into the industry was similar, "I've always loved arts and crafts and have been quite a practical person. I used to decorate with my mam, and we'd always have the best time. I started looking into decorating when I moved

back to Newcastle at 19. I needed something practical, something I could really get into and constantly learn new things in."

So far, it's been a largely positive experience for both girls. Jade added, "The trade evolves all the time. It's never boring. You're always learning. Being able to compete in all those competitions has been the highlight of my career so far."

Article supplied by
UK tool manufacturer
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Courtney Maddison

Challenging preconceptions

Things haven't been challenge-free for either graduate though. Jade explains, "Being a female on site was initially an eye-opener. I've been really lucky with the locations where I've worked, but the difference in mentality to females in the trade was a shock. There were some questions to what I was doing in a 'man's trade'. I've found the best thing to do is just go in there and show them what you can do. They immediately realise they've underestimated you."

Courtney faced her biggest learning curve when her boss fell pregnant about a year into her apprenticeship, so took on more responsibilities, such as quoting, collecting materials and completing jobs, "It was tough but as I'm coming to the end of my apprenticeship now, I feel like it has given me so much more confidence and motivation to be the best version of myself."

A career change for the better

Sarah Hughes is relatively new to the industry. When her career as a musician saw a devastating downturn during the pandemic, she swapped her saxophone for a brush and hasn't looked back.

"Working as a painter and decorator has been the best career change I've ever made," said Sarah, "I love working in the industry because as a creative person it really satisfies my desire to not be sat behind a desk and use my hands!"

"There is sometimes the assumption the work is too physically demanding, it took a couple of weeks to get used to the more demanding aspects, but I haven't found anything I'm not capable of. I only wish I had been steered towards this career sooner."

Gender parity may be a little way off, but a level playing field will remove those traditional notions of who is suitable for a career in painting and decorating is the way forward for the industry.

Jade concluded, "Having a mix of workers brings more ideas to the table. Women thinking of joining the trade should not be discouraged because of the old stereotyping, because it's not like that at all. Everyone can paint. It's all about whether you have it in you to actually step up and do it." ■



Sarah Hughes

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There is always a place for glitz in this world however requests for metallics over large areas used to be the domain of the night club or hotel; over the last 15 years however we've been asked more and more for metallic walls and furniture for domestic settings.

Right; Applied over Anaglypta, a great way to update this classic paper. Basecoated in Roberson's Champagne, the lower part has Classic Gold applied and wiped off the high points, the upper part has a glaze coloured with black and again stippled and wiped.



Below; Roberson's Old Silver with Champagne over the top, dragged and then wiped on the detail.

Anyone who has tried to hand paint a metallic paint with a brush or roller, knows that it is utterly unforgiving and that every brush stroke or roller pass shows as the mica reflects off the surface.

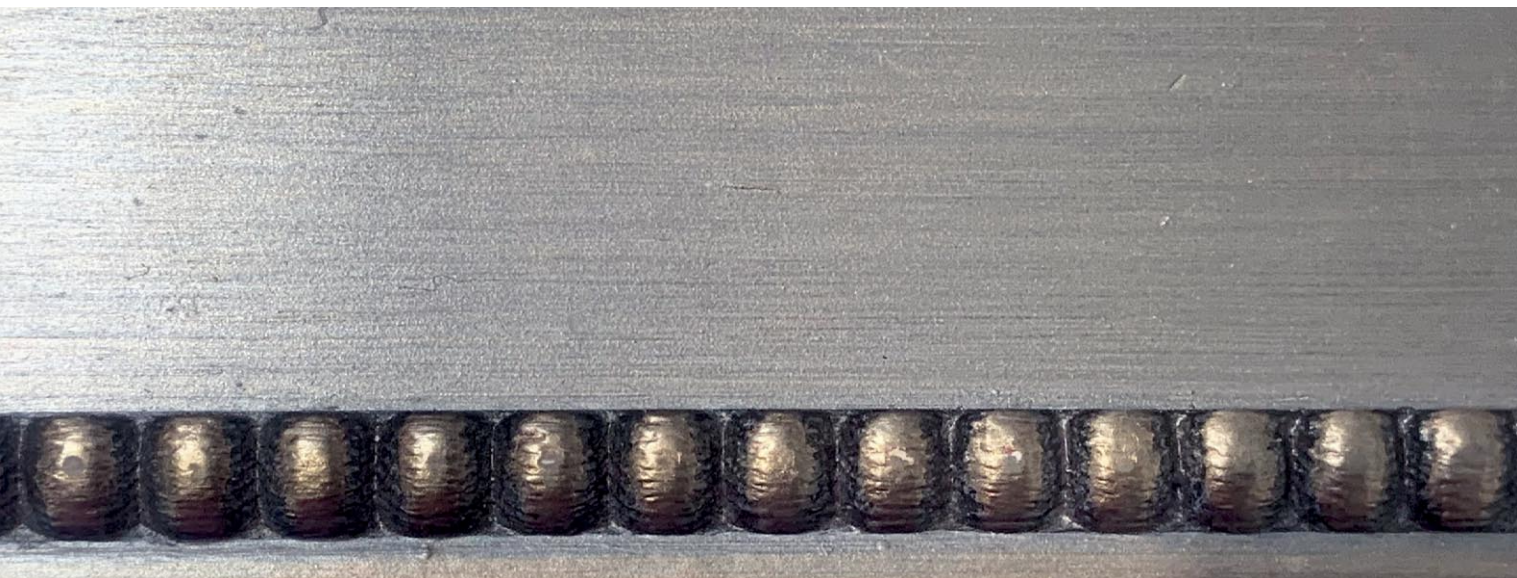
So, for many the only solution is to spray it, and of course that is a solution, but there are others...

A sprayed metallic surface has very little character, but using a few alternative ways to work with metallics, you can achieve results that are effective, and characterful while giving a really great pro-finish.

First is the stipple, and this is an easy and straightforward way to remove the cutting in and roller tracking marks, but you need to start the way you are going to go on if it is a very translucent metallic.

Why? Because these will telegraph through on the less opaque colours. So, depending on the metallic paint used we may stipple every coat. For the edges we will use a small hog hair softener, but we have thrown away the old bristle stiplers these days in favour of the 'Woolie' (pictured opposite) or similar.

These I found in the USA and on first sight they seemed a very DIY tool but far from it! These pads of wool create a very soft and pretty marl, as you even out your material. This itself can be a stand-alone finish. >



Roberson's Classic Gold with Silver dragged
very finely over the top using a wallpaper brush.

WORKING WITH METALLIC PAINT ON WALLS AND FURNITURE

By Cait Whitson

Back wall: Roberson's Bronze with a
Vandyke Brown coloured glaze over the top
softened and broken with cheesecloth

Lower surface: As above but with stencil
in Roberson's Silver over the top.





Roberson's Bronze with Vandyke Brown coloured glaze over the top, softened and broken with cheesecloth, stencilled with Roberson's Silver over.

< You could also use a sea sponge; this creates more patterning but a different one, the same goes for a pad of mutton cloth or cheesecloth. Another tool to try is the rag pad from Omega (called a Tampone), and this can be used damp to stipple, and part remove as it goes. Alternatively, you can apply paint with it by dipping it into a roller tray and stamp apply it to the surface.

Work with the fact that the material shows the brush-marks, and control this by doing a dragged finish with the metallic. You can also do use a different colour metallic as the basecoat than the topcoat, and this too is very attractive, but the drag needs to be very exact on walls to give the effect of brushed metal. On furniture and cabinetry this is a very useful technique.

In these ways you are working with the material not fighting against it.

These finishes of course rely on a lot of open time, especially over large areas, and the product we have found with the most open time is from Roberson's, called Liquid Metal, the range of colours in this material is outstanding.

If you want to have extra time to work the material you have a couple of options, using a glaze like Polyvine or Fusion as an extender, or using an extender like Floetrol. With the Roberson's material this gives you a lot of open time, over large areas we would work with two people, one to lay on and the other to stipple or manipulate the material.

Once you have a beautiful finish across your surface you can of course create extra finishes by adding decoration or glazes, such as the stencilling shown above.

Have FUN! ■

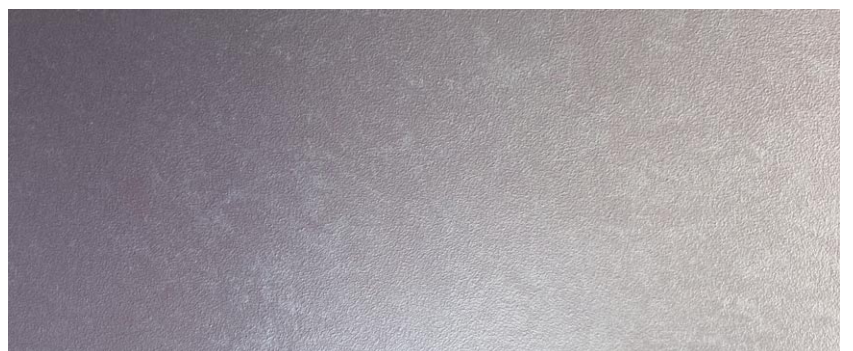
Classic Rag Roll in
Burnt Umber over
Roberson's Classic Gold



Cait Whitson 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: Instagram @paintycait or Facebook /carteblanchedecorativepainters

Her training courses can be found at www.caitwhitson.com



Fleur Silver, with Fleur Pearl Colour Aqua over the top and textured with the Omega Tampone damp to remove and even out the pearl paint



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Embracing the trend **Barbiecore**

Watch out decorators, you may be about to be asked to go heavy on the pink...

Colour Palette

Vibrant and playful colour palettes are the backbone to any Barbie aesthetic. Soft and feminine pastel shades, pinks, purples, blues and mint green can transform your space into the dreamhouse.

Furniture and Upholstery

Choosing furniture pieces with curvy lines or a retro feel can add a touch of Barbie into any home. Look for vintage or retro-inspired furniture, like velvet or plush sofas and chairs. Pieces with ornate details like tufting or scalloped edges work well too.

Patterns and Prints

Embrace bold patterns and prints! Incorporating polka dots, floral motifs, gingham checks through wallpapers, curtains, bedding and even upholstery can add a playful touch.

Accessories

Accessories play a crucial role in Barbiecore design so it's best to choose items that reflect a glamorous and girly aesthetic. Try incorporating decorative mirrors, vintage perfume bottles, chandeliers and bold art.

Luxurious fabrics like velvet, satin or faux fur can add both elegance and glamour. These fabrics can be included in your design through cushions, rugs, throws and curtains.

Lighting

Choose glamorous chandeliers or pendant lights that have some sparkle to them. Fairy lights or string lights are a fantastic way to create a whimsical atmosphere.

Wall Art

Try displaying art pieces that exude femininity and playfulness. Artwork featuring fashion illustrations, vintage prints, or floral designs work best for a dream house. You can also create a gallery wall with framed Barbie posters or prints.



The hotly anticipated Barbie movie released on 21 July, and has already generated a significant amount of buzz in the interiors world.

With the colour pink and Barbie-inspired motifs are expected to grow in popularity, design brand Bobbi Beck has released three stylish wallpaper designs inspired by the classic Barbie look. The collection, which includes designs Bonbon, Picnic and Froyo capture the essence of classic Barbie, through iconic patterns including gingham, polka dots and stripes, all in a sweet but accessible pink.

"Barbiecore wallpapers can be a fantastic addition to your home, particularly for those who are looking to create an eccentric and vibrant atmosphere", says James Mellan-Matulewicz, Creative Director at Bobbi Beck

"These wallpapers are a delightful homage to the iconic Barbie aesthetic, featuring playful motifs, bright colours, and charming patterns that can instantly transform a room into a joyful space." ■



You can be subtle with the use of pink too, such as incorporating this 'Picnic' Gingham Pattern Wallpaper, available online from www.bobbibeck.com

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Eco-friendly, British paint manufacturer Little Greene is the last independent company still making a complete range of high quality traditional and modern paints.

Available in the complete Little Greene colour palette, the long lasting, hard-wearing exterior paints combine the highest technical performance with a beautiful finish and profound depth of colour.



Little Greene Exterior Paints **Durable Finishes**

The six products in the exterior 'family' include gloss and eggshell paints for woodwork and metalwork in both oil-based and waterbased systems, plus traditional Limewash and the weatherproof Masonry Paint for brickwork, stone and render.

Decorating your exterior is not only a practical way of weatherproofing your home, it's also the perfect opportunity to add design personality to your outdoor space. Even a simple update such as refreshing existing garden furniture or painting a wall can add instant impact and extend your living area outdoors.

From home-working to outdoor dining, our gardens have become multi-purpose. As well as providing relaxing areas in which to enjoy nature and gardening, we are seeing the creation of outdoor living and dining rooms, zones that truly reflect an interior design scheme, with soft furnishings, mirrors, outdoor rugs and the embracing of colour on walls and outdoor furniture.

Whether you are painting a large expanse of wall to provide a backdrop to alfresco dining or simply >



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◀ refreshing pot plants for a small balcony, you can completely coordinate outdoor elements to create a truly cohesive scheme that flows throughout your home.

The introduction of colour can completely change the atmosphere of a space, bringing year-round joy and design interest to an exterior. There are many different ways to incorporate colour depending on how you would like the space to feel.

Consider a bold colour highlight as a backdrop to planting and greenery or for a more tranquil feel, select natural shades to blend with their surroundings. A deep hue such as Arras combined with natural wood finishes and textures will transport you to warmer climes, and memories of hot summers, whilst a classic blue and white exterior scheme is the perfect backdrop to a pretty country garden.

For year round sunshine, incorporate a bold pop of the joyful Indian Yellow to inject a little vibrancy. ■

The Finishes

Intelligent Masonry Paint. Designed to last up to 15 years on exterior walls before re-painting when applied correctly. An environmentally friendly water-based paint that dries quickly to a pleasingly smooth matt finish. It is dirt and water resistant, containing anti-fungal and anti-ageing technology.

Intelligent Exterior Eggshell. The choice of the practical homeowner for all exterior woodwork and metalwork including doors, window trims, timber buildings, gates and garden furniture. The technically advanced, self-priming formulation can be applied straight onto new and bare wood, as well as to suitably primed metalwork.

Tom's Oil Eggshell. Much loved by professional decorators, this oil-based, and therefore extremely hard-wearing, has excellent flow, deep adhesion, a beautiful low sheen and is fully weather resistant. Available in all colours, this washable paint is suitable for exterior woodwork and metalwork.

Traditional Oil Gloss. A classic, deep gloss finish, which looks extremely smart on front doors and traditional joinery. It can be used on both exterior and interior woodwork and metalwork. Hard wearing, easy to look after and shiny enough to reflect a lot of light. Formulated using naturally-occurring vegetable oils.

Intelligent Gloss. A water-based alternative suitable for exterior use. Tough, environmentally friendly and fully washable paint with a chic, high sheen. Fast drying finish, perfect for all joinery, woodwork, and suitably primed metals.

Limewash. A traditional finish used to decorate and protect porous stone and lime-rendered surfaces. Water-based and completely breathable it is the chosen finish for old walls, especially those prone to damp problems or without a damp-proof course. Very matt, it is available in a wide choice of colours.

Intelligent ASP. Little Greene's most technically advanced primer provides the perfect preparation for your chosen finish.

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A family-run company, Little Greene is proud to produce environmentally friendly finishes for every application, ethically manufactured in a traditional paint factory in the foothills of Snowdonia. Little Greene paints are lovingly crafted using the highest quality ingredients, clever formulations and complex colour recipes, with no compromise on quality or performance.

The company's water-based paints far exceed all legislation on VOCs and its oil-based paints have been formulated to use naturally occurring vegetable oils. In addition, all its packaging, including the metal cans, contains recycled materials and can be recycled again upon disposal.

Little Greene paints are available through over 500 stockists nationally and internationally.



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Nothing wobbly about this finish!

Brewers Exeter were thrilled to be able to donate 15 litres of Albany paint to breathe new life into Jelly, a charity shop in Exeter selling low cost, preloved children's clothes, toys and books.

Bradite also donated some floor paint to not only brighten the space, but also supply the best coating to ensure the floor stands the test of time.

Jelly celebrated its reopening with Jelly Bear, face painting, cakes, a huge raffle with some fantastic prizes and some goodie bags to the first 50 customers!



www.brewers.co.uk

Jelly first opened its doors in 2015 and is run by paid staff and a team of amazing volunteers. Over the years, Jelly has amassed a loyal customer base in Exeter and beyond as the go-to shop for friendly customer service

and preloved, low-cost clothes, toys and books, which is more important now than ever with the cost-of-living crisis impacting local families.

The shop also offers volunteering opportunities to people, many of whom are looking to build confidence and gain valuable retail skills to help get back into work.

Ellie Taylor, Operations Manager at Exeter Community Initiatives, said: "It's been an amazing day! It was wonderful to welcome back our customers, staff and volunteers who we've missed during the refurbishment. Jelly's had a much-needed makeover. We now have a dedicated baby feed, changing and rest area and it's a bright and welcoming environment for our customers – big and small! My thanks goes out to staff, volunteers and the many local businesses who have given their time, money or resources to make this refurbishment happen – we couldn't have done it without you!"

Find more about the other amazing work the Exeter Community Initiatives carries out at www.eci.org.uk



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Many Hands make light work of bridge



When design studio Many Hands were commissioned to brighten up a railway bridge in South London, a conversation with Bradite provided the solution... One Can.

Working with Greenwich London Borough Council to improve the appearance of the public space, Many Hands painted a multi-coloured design for the Plumstead railway bridge. The design was created by Make Good who work with local communities to improve the environment.

In need of a high-performance coating that would provide superior protection, Many Hands turned to the Bradite technical specialists, whose suggestions had proved invaluable for previous projects, including the HQ of cycling lifestyle brand Rapha.

On this occasion, the chosen finish had to satisfy the technical requirements of the Network Rail M24 certified paint system.

"They have strict guidelines about what paints to use on their structures, so they were given the details about Bradite One Can and they approved it," explains Many Hands Director, Luke James.

"We've painted a number of bridges in the past with different paints and some have been difficult", Luke says, but adds, "the One Can was nice to paint with and, being water-based, it was easy to clean up afterwards."

The job took ten days, with One Can's extensive palette of RAL colours supplying everything required for the job.

One Can acts as a primer, undercoat and finish all in one. It is low-odour, quick drying and has the ability to adhere to almost any substrate, both interior and exterior. ■



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Whether you have been contracted to paint a domestic or commercial concrete floor, there are several questions to ask before you can determine the right product and application...



Painting Concrete Floors

Is the floor bare concrete or previously painted?

This will determine the right coat system for the job.

What 'traffic' will the floor be subjected to?

Consider whether it will be mainly foot traffic, tyre traffic or both.

What is the approximate age of the floor?

If known, this will help you assess what type of prep work is required. All hard concrete surfaces must be stable, dry, free of contamination such as dirt, grime, oil, grease, chemicals, poorly adhering and flaking paints. A floor paint will not harden a soft surface and the coating will fail under foot and tyre contact.

What is the condition of the floor?

Ensuring the floor is free of contaminants such as grit, dust and loose material is essential. Also ensure the floor is free of any cracks.

Has the floor been layered with a screed or a self-levelling compound?

If the concrete floor is bare, this is a key consideration. Not all screeds and self-levelling compounds can be painted. Finding out who manufactured the material will help you determine this. If you're unsure who manufactured the floor, get in touch with the Brewers Specialist Coatings Helpline on 01323 576101.

Is the floor power floated or sealed?

A power floated floor is created by buffing a freshly set concrete floor with a power float machine, creating a mirror like shine. This makes the surface less prone to cracks. The porosity of bare concrete floors should be tested using an easy porosity test.

Top Tips for Painting Concrete Floors

- Before you conduct any other prep such as repairs or giving the floor an abrasive key, make sure the entire surface is degreased and cleaned with the recommended cleaner. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Make sure all the surfaces are **clean** and well prepared before they are painted.
- If using Acid Etch on non-porous concrete, ensure you follow manufacturer's instructions as **this is a highly specialised product**.
- The **minimum** temperature application of paint systems is 10°C.
- Always refer to the product technical data sheet of paint products.
- **Trial the product** using a test area before applying to the whole floor.
- Make sure the paint system is left to **fully** cure before people start using the space.

If it is a bare concrete floor, is the concrete completely dry and ready to paint?

Conducting a sweat test is a simple and effective way to check the dryness of a concrete floor. Tape a polythene sheet to the floor and leave for 24 hours. If condensation appears then it is not dry enough to paint. Paint adhesion will not be successful if the floors are still damp and any moisture in the substrate will result in paint failure.

If the concrete is previously painted, is the coating single pack or twin pack?


If you are unsure, score the previous coating with a sharp point. If this breaks the back of the floor coating, then it is single pack. A sharp point over a twin pack coating slides or skids over the dry film surface and does not make any impression. Solvent tests will also determine if the coatings are single pack or twin pack. Epoxy coatings are only compatible with other epoxy coatings, the same applies to single pack coatings.

Choosing the Right Product

Single pack floor paint could be used for light to medium footfall whilst twin pack floor paint should be used for heavy footfall, including tyre traffic. ■



Each flooring project will of course vary, so contact Brewers Specialist Coatings helpline on 01323 576101 to discuss yours in more detail.
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Research from Sandtex Trade reveals homeowners want to decorate their exteriors but need the support of a professional to do so. Despite homeowners not having the confidence to paint the outside of their property, a whopping 95% deem it an important factor when looking to purchase a new home and are looking to the trade to give their homes that kerbside appeal.

To help professionals get ahead when discussing exterior projects with clients, Sandtex has identified the top trending colours amongst different age groups.

Exterior colour confidence



To find out more about the Sandtex Trade range visit www.sandtextrade.co.uk

18-24-year-olds

Younger homeowners are more adventurous and bolder with colour. Reds, blues, greens and even black were selected as favourite shades for exteriors, including front doors and garden fences. Despite Gen Z's willingness to explore bold colours, the grey trend among this age group is strong with 23% identifying the shade as their top choice for painting masonry and large parts of their home's exterior.



25-34-year-olds

Millennials shared that they love the crisp clean look of white for their property's exterior, with one-in-three selecting it as their favourite exterior colour.

Red was also a popular choice among these young homeowners as 14% said they'd like to paint areas such as doors in the confident shade.

35-44-year-olds

It's likely that clients in this age group will love neutral shades, as almost a third preferred the look of properties painted in a natural sandstone. This generation is also a huge fan of grey, as a quarter claimed they wanted to paint part of their exterior in the popular colour.

45-54-year-olds

Pastels and blue shades were a popular choice among this age group as the Sandtex Trade research revealed 16% would paint parts of their home's exteriors blue, including doors, gates, and trim. 30% also loved the look of natural sandstone shades, which are ideal for masonry.



55-64-year-olds

Perhaps unsurprisingly, this generation was much safer with colour and bold shades were bottom of the list. Instead, they opted for clean neutral colours like cream and sandstone.

Despite the youngest homeowners loving the look of black for exterior areas of their property, it was not a common choice in the older demographics, with just 4% of over 65's saying they would paint any part of their home's exterior in the shade. ■

The data also suggests that homeowners have no idea which parts of a property's exterior they can paint and one in three don't know it's possible to paint metal. Sandtex Trade paints can be mixed in over 700 colours, so no matter your clients shade preference, Sandtex has you covered. Sandtex Trade has been providing high quality exterior paint products to professional painters and decorators for over 60 years. It is a one-stop-shop for everything exterior, including preparation and treatment products, masonry paint, trim paints, and sundries. Incredibly tough against the elements, Sandtex Trade paints are known to protect buildings for longer.

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Social media can be a daunting business. With so many channels flooded with content, it can be tricky to start creating content that your followers will engage with. Whilst this can seem awkward at first, it can also be a lot of fun and a great way to market your unique selling points in an authentic way.

Here are some top tips to help you get started...

Creating Content for **Social Media**

It's all about people and visuals! We are bombarded by faceless companies online trying to sell us things, so **try to get your face out there** as much as possible.

Your followers will be more engaged with what you're saying or showing on camera if you feature in the content. This will also allow your followers to get to know you and what your business is all about. Create videos and use pictures as much as possible, as people can become fatigued quickly with text only posts.

People love a good transformation!

It's good practice to get into the habit of taking a quick picture before you have begun decorating so you can show this alongside the final result.

This is a great way to instantly showcase your professional skills and demonstrate how much work goes into decorating! *The more of the process you can show, the better*, as people will build appreciation for and value your craftsmanship.

Treat some of your channels like a diary of your day. Filming yourself chatting about what you're getting up to that day or some of the things you have planned in for the week is a natural way of creating engaging, authentic content.

People will be interested in what you have to say and will be keen to follow you along your journey!

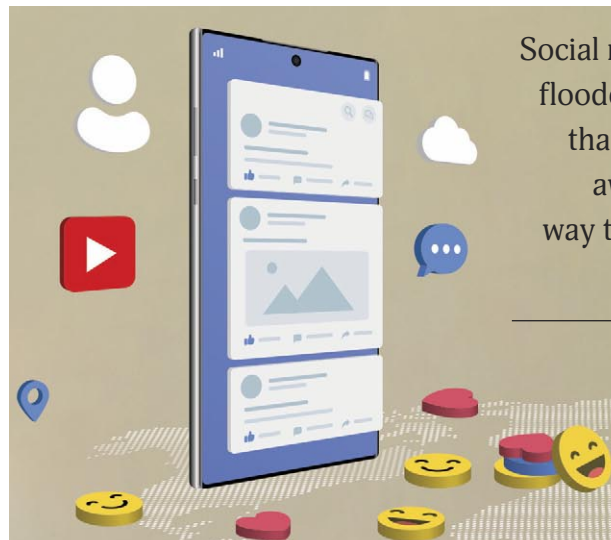
Remain professional and end with a rhetorical question or statement of

gratitude so you're directly addressing your audience.

Know the difference between platforms. Some channels such as Facebook and Instagram encourage chatty or entertaining content. Funny videos, chatty captions and more of an informal tone are perfect. If you're using LinkedIn, try to be more formal as it has been designed with corporation at the helm.

Tag your suppliers. If you have used a specific company or paint brand, tag them! Companies love seeing their products in action and it will give you more exposure. If you use any products you've bought from Brewers be sure to tag us! ■

@Brewerspains



Brewers
DECORATOR CENTRES

Gemma Walton is a Digital Marketing Executive at Brewers. 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.

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Why **your** choice of **brush** is **so important**



Andrew Cummins, Senior Product Manager at Purdy explains how the choice of paint brush can make a real difference to the quality of the finish, productivity and your own comfort.

For an exemplary finish every time, there is no substitute for using the correct high-quality tools and materials. One of the most important considerations is the choice of brushes.

The right filaments for the job

Perhaps more than anything else, choosing a brush with the right filaments is key to making work easier and ensuring client satisfaction. As a general rule, a brush with thicker filaments is more suitable for thicker coatings, such as emulsion, while a brush with thinner filaments will be best for thinner, water based paints. Brushes with the finest, thinnest filaments, such as

Purdy Syntox, should be chosen to ensure a glossy finish when working with varnishes and wood stains.

In addition, 'flagged' filaments will help pick up and lay off paint more effectively. These are split ends on each of the filaments that are created during the manufacturing process. The three to five 'fingers' that flagging produces means it performs better compared with non-flagged equivalents. It is also worth looking for brushes designed to be 'self-flagging', like those in the Purdy range, where the flagging is renewed as the brush filaments wear down over time. This will ensure the performance of the brush is maintained throughout its lifespan. >



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< **Manufacturing quality**

Cheap, low-quality brushes are always a poor investment. This is not only because they do not last and become misshaped quickly, but also because they are prone to losing filaments that then end up in the painted surface, ruining the finish. Look for high quality brushes, where a high-strength epoxy has been used to securely bond the filaments to the handle, for the life of the brush.

The handle

While often overlooked, the design of the handle is a key factor when choosing professional quality brushes as there will be different shaped handles depending on how the brush will be used. For example, a long and thin 'rattail' handle allows it to be held like a pencil to enable fine and precise control. In contrast, a thick and rounded 'beavertail' shape is designed to fit comfortably in the palm of the hand, ideal when painting large areas. Meanwhile brushes such as the Purdy XL Cub have a 'short' handle that allows easier access and better control in tight spaces and hard to reach areas.

As the brushes will be used day-in and day-out, the quality of the handle is also all important. A wooden handle will often be the most comfortable, especially

when it is used for extended periods of time. For example, Purdy uses high quality alderwood for its handles as it is lightweight, durable and is also moisture wicking, meaning it absorbs sweat for a more comfortable grip.

Choosing the go-to brushes

It goes without saying that professionals need a range of brushes to cover the most common types of work and coatings. At Purdy, we recommend a brush designed for emulsion, such as the Purdy Monarch Elite, a cutting-in brush suited to water based trim paint, such as the Purdy Sprig and a soft brush, like the Purdy Syntox, to achieve a glossy finish when using water and solvent-based stains, varnishes and oils – we call this the Purdy Paint Plan. It is also worth considering brushes with angled filaments to make cutting in easier and more accurate. Furthermore, a brush suited to exterior use is a useful addition. Ideally this should be suitable for oil based paints and have stiffer filaments for coating coarser surfaces – for example the Purdy Pro Extra Monarch.

For professionals, the choice of brushes is one of the most important decisions. Investing in high-quality brushes will not only deliver the required finish, but also be easier to use every day and help get the job completed quicker. ■

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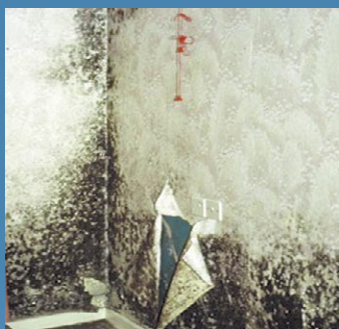
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Condensation and black mould problems



“My walls are damp”, “my ceiling is damp” – there are not many Maintenance Managers, Housing Managers and Surveyors across the Country who have not heard this complaint from tenants in the ‘condensation season’ from October to April. But it is not damp in the truest sense...

There are 14 types of damp, ranging from rising damp, penetrating damp, bursts, leaks and spillages, through to condensation. 80-85% of the complaints of damp are complaints of condensation causing black mould growth on walls and ceilings, only 15-20% are true damp problems.



A typical family can produce up to 25 pints of moisture a day, when it contacts any cold surfaces, condensation will form.

Black mould problems are a favourite topic for the Local Press, and this year have attracted the attention of ITV news investigators and National Newspaper coverage, not good publicity for certain Local Authorities and Housing Associations.

Hidden dangers

Mould is not only ugly, it causes untold misery to tenants with black growths covering walls and ceilings, clothes and furnishings being contaminated, and their health at serious risk from the airborne spores, as well as unpleasant musty smells throughout the property.

Every dwelling, irrespective of its construction, contains mould spores which are dormant and completely harmless. Mould needs very little nutrient

and will grow irrespective of the decorative finish, starting in corners, wall junctions and behind wardrobes, areas of least air movement.

Mould spores cause a wide range of upper respiratory complaints and allergic reactions, including asthma, bronchitis, nausea, malaise, and food poisoning.

Taking responsibility

Under the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS), mould is a Category 1 hazard and the Homes (Fitness for Human Habitation) Act 2018 states, it is the responsibility of the landlord to resolve problems. The Housing Ombudsman has now stated the problems cannot be attributed to ‘lifestyle issues’.

It is extremely unfortunate that it has taken the recent tragic death of a child due to mould, according to the coroner, for the problems of mould to be acknowledged and addressed with the seriousness they deserve.



Taking action

MGC's mould treatments have been successfully used for over 56 years by Local Authorities, Housing Associations, private landlords and homeowners.

All MGC mould treatments, fungicidal additives and fungicidal paints are approved under COPR 1986 (As amended) by the Health and Safety Executive and listed in M3NHF Schedule of Rates for mould treatment.

There is a bulk treatment for Works Departments and contractors, and a smaller kit is approved for amateur and tenant use. Sempatap Thermal insulation will help reduce condensation. ■



For current offers and promotions visit www.mgcltd.co.uk



BLACK MOULD AND CONDENSATION

Every year these problems are inevitable



Black mould is a problem which is widespread in homes throughout the UK.

- It is unsightly and homes smell musty.
- It can cause serious health problems.
- It will ruin decorations, furniture and clothes.



- Proven Mould Treatments.
- Simple and easy to use.
- Used for over 56 years by Local Authorities, Housing Associations and Private Landlords.
- Long lasting in severe condensation areas.

MGC's Mould Eradication Kit has been supplied for over 25 years to Housing Associations and Local Authorities for successfully treating mould problems.



The Mould Eradication Kit contains everything that is needed to treat 10-12²m of mould, all the products in the kit are approved under C.O.P.R. for amateur/tenant use.



- All products approved under C.O.P.R. by the H.S.E.
- For large contaminations of mould the eradication system is available in 1 litre and 5 litre containers.
- Mould products listed in M3NHF Schedule of Rates.



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For further help, information and advice please telephone our
sales office on 01372 743334 or email info@mgcltd.co.uk
website www.mgcltd.co.uk



Step-up your ladder safety



The latest report from the Ladder Association follows the Telescopic Ladder Surveillance Survey undertaken in 2022, which found that over 80% of commercially available telescopic ladders tested, failed to meet the minimum safety requirements designed to keep users safe. Worse still, it found over half of the failed ladders were marked and sold as 'compliant' in a deliberate attempt to mislead...

In a bid to see if the retailers have addressed the issue, the Ladder Association re-tested a portion of the same products from last year's study.

Following identical testing, *every set of telescopic ladders failed the required safety tests*, meaning they are non-compliant and dangerous, and proving that the earlier failures were not 'one-offs'. 80% of the ladders re-tested claimed to be compliant with product standard EN 131 – *but not one met the standard*.

As it stands, online marketplaces selling products supplied by third-party sellers, **have no responsibility for preventing unsafe goods being sold** on their platforms, and no legal obligation to inform consumers if they have purchased unsafe goods. This gives rogue manufacturers and suppliers based anywhere in the

world free rein to sell unsafe, sometimes deadly, products direct to unsuspecting buyers in the UK.

While there are manufacturers producing ladders that meet the safety standards, the study again showed that the telescopic ladders tested and sold by some of the country's biggest online platforms, fall well below basic safety requirements. Many of these ladders *appear* fit for purpose and some even display bogus compliance labelling, giving customers false assurance.

Working at height can be risky enough, without the additional danger of poor-quality ladders. A fall from height can cause life-changing injury, and in some cases, can even be fatal.

View the latest Telescopic Ladder Surveillance Survey Report at www.ladderassociation.org.uk/step-up/ ■

	Sample 1	Sample 2	Sample 3	Sample 4	Sample 5	Sample 6
Brand	Arcohome	Nestling	Tough Master	Unbranded	Unbranded	Not disclosed ¹
Marketplace	Amazon	Amazon	eBay	OnBuy.com	eBay	Not disclosed ¹
Length	4.5m	3.8m	3.8m	6.2m	3.8m	3.27m
Shows CE Mark?	CE & UKCA on box	CE & UKCA on box	No	CE on box	No	No
States EN 131?	On product	On product	On packaging	No	Yes (but crossed out)	On packaging
OVERALL RESULT	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL	FAIL

Key: Pass = Met requirements, Fail = Did not meet requirements, N/T = Not tested due to structural failure of ladder in earlier test

¹ Product and seller details not disclosed as the sample was subject to a minor fail during ladder preconditioning test only

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VOLKSWAGEN Crafter



Sitting in the driving seat of the Crafter, one could be forgiven for being a little bewildered. You have all the traditional controls, a wheel bedecked with switches, and an info screen about half the size of an iPad mini with touch controls.

Around the screen, one can access navigation, car, apps, radio, media, phone and voice. You can find all the facilities by touching the 'menu.' It takes some learning, and it would take me a fortnight driving it to learn all the attributes the Crafter has to offer.

Driving this paragon is an enjoyable experience. Initially I found changing gear a bind, and stalled it many times owing to being used to an auto box.

The Crafter is as quick as any ordinary car on the motorway. I was travelling at eighty without even realising, so I quickly got down to a legal 70mph. I must stress the van was empty which would have had an effect.

The driving seat is a thing to behold... Although not fully electrically adjustable, you have to reach a long way down to pull up the handle to shift the seat back or forth. The seat is height adjustable, the swab can be adjusted for tilt, and the back is air adjusted by a little four-way switch at the side of the seat. Driver comfort is important - it's not good being exhausted by an awful seat. Traffic conditions are bad enough nowadays without being fatigued. >

TEST DRIVE

By David Stokes

I've been driving a long time, more recently I'm struck by the advances in commercial vehicles. Apart from being seated higher than a car, the driving experience is rather car-like...



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< In the Crafter you get all the 'toys' a modern car gets. There is AC, cruise control, satnav, Bluetooth and electrically adjusted heated mirrors with indicators. Door mirrors are on each side of the cab, each with two mirrors in each. The lower is a wide angle, and the other much larger but still images appear further away than they are, and unfortunately, they don't fold on locking.

In the cab there's an emergency button when on pressing it a voice asks what the emergency is and also how to cancel by pressing again. Over the screen is a large shelf assembly in the centre are two small cubbyholes for small items, mobile phone etc and on each side of these are two larger shelves that will accommodate a very generous lunch box. There are four cup holders and places to place documents on the dash. Over the dash on the passenger side is one of the 12-volt sockets. The other is on the driver's side, lower down the dash. Under the main display, you find two type C type USB sockets, a short conversion from USB C to A in the test van.

Each door has generous-sized lower pockets and a much smaller one above. Under the two passenger seats is a good-sized storage place for a largish

Key specifications

Crafter CR35 Trendline MWB 2.0 TDI 140PS

Fuel consumption	22.6 – 33.2 mpg (combined)
Breakdown assistance	3 years / 100,000 miles
Payload	1,194kg
Trailer weight	3,000 (braked) 750kg (unbraked)
Dimensions	5.99m x 2.43m x 1.96m
Load volume	10.7m ³
Wheelbase	3.64m
Fuel Capacity	75 litres

overnight bag. Behind the seats attached to the bulkhead are two coat hooks very close to the doors.

On the floor of the load space are ten tie down loops, five each side, unfortunately, there are none at waist or head level, they'd be useful if tall items are to be moved. The sides of the load space are lined in plywood, and the floor has a very hard-wearing covering. The rear doors can lay flat against the side of the van and are held in place magnetically, the nearside door is held a little way out allowing the side door to slide back and click into place. ■

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HOW TO Clean & Restore DECKING

To many, restoring your garden deck can seem like an impossible task. Having such a wide variety of products to choose from can cause confusion and frustration and often this job just gets put off each year unnecessarily.

Owatrol show you that it need not be a difficult task at all...



Net-Trol Wood Cleaner & Colour Restorer

Net-Trol is a powerful, biodegradable, water-based wood cleaner and brightener which restores greyed and weathered wood to its natural colour without damaging the wood's fibres. It effortlessly removes both surface and ground-in dirt leaving the wood looking bright and vibrant. Net-Trol is fast-acting and can restore the original colour of your wood surface in as little as 15 minutes with no laborious and backbreaking sanding.

As it does not contain any solvents or bleach, it is not harmful to plants and shrubs so can be used safely in the garden – perfect for reviving your decking.

Previous Finishes

If you have previously applied an Owatrol product such as Textrol, Aquadecks or Dek's Olje D1, you can simply give the deck a thorough clean with Net-Trol and then once the wood has sufficiently dried (usually 2-3 days), you can simply apply your chosen Owatrol finish.



However, other finishes will need to be removed using either Aquanett, Prepdeck or Dilunett, and neutralising with Net-Trol. **Removal of the previous finish is vital** because Owatrol wood oil finishes are saturating products, therefore, any remnants of a previous finish would hinder the saturating qualities and you will not achieve the best finish possible.



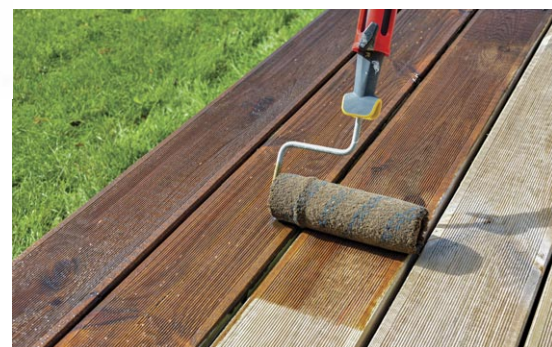
Applying an Owatrol Wood Finish

Once your wood has been cleaned and left to dry, you can then apply your chosen finish.

The Owatrol range includes products for softwood, hardwood, and composite wood. It also contains water-based products, coloured opaque finishes, as well as a finish that only requires a single coat.

All of Owatrol's wood oil finishes are saturating products. This means that they work by penetrating deep into the surface of the wood to protect it from within and because there is no film on the surface, it cannot peel or flake.

Whatever the look you're going for, you can find a solution with Owatrol. ■



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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www.owatrol-direct.co.uk



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APPLY SOME PRESSURE

Pressure washers are very useful in cleaning large areas, washing off dirt and loose materials, preparing outside walls, and they're good for those floor painting jobs.

All but one of these washers was supplied with a 'turbo lance', which have a revolving nozzle that is actually a pencil jet, but is revolving, giving the operator the power of a jet but the covering of a fan spray.

Be sure to wear eye protection and certainly if pressure washing walls, wear waterproofs!

Titan TTB2200PRW

A powerful washer, which is easy to manoeuvre, and the wheels have brakes so it won't run about. Supplied with a 'Vario Fan' and 'Roto Nozzle', the Titan would certainly cope with many tasks from removing stubborn dirt from masonry, concrete floors and, through a chemical container plugged onto the outlet hose, spray detergent to loosen very obstinate grit from any surface.



Price
£159.99 from **SCREWFIX**

Max pressure	150 bar	Flow rate	8.3 ltr/min
Hose length	10 metres	Nozzles	Vario Fan and Roto
Cable length	5 metres	Weight	17.3 kg

Draper 2500W 98679

The 98679 is a 'trade quality' washer that has a brushless induction motor, powering a pump, that delivers a high-pressure water flow of 6.7 ltr/min. On the front of the washer are two controls, one on/off and the other water pressure control. Supplied with a hose reel atop the washer and an integrated detergent container plus a turbo lance, five fixed nozzles and a revolving patio cleaner.

Price
£316.66 from **DRAPER Tools**



Max pressure	195 bar	Flow rate	6.7 ltr/min
Hose length	8 metres	Nozzles	Six inc Turbo Lance
Cable length	5 metres	Weight	25 kg

Clarke Jet 9500B

The Jet 9500B features a powerful 2400W induction motor and an integrated 1400ml detergent tank. Unfortunately, this washer does not feature a 'turbo lance' which I've found to be very effective. The Jet 9500B is still suitable for all work where pressure washer are needed.



Price £287.98 from

Machine Mart

Max pressure	200 bar	Flow rate	7 ltr/min
Hose length	8 metres	Nozzle	Adjustable
Cable length	5 metres	Weight	21.6 kg



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Draper 2100W 98678

Draper tells us the 98678 is 'trade quality' but smaller, lighter and marginally less powerful than its big brother. There's a holster for the lance to keep it nice and tidy when wheeling it about. Supplied with the same turbo lance and five, quick fix nozzles and a revolving patio cleaner as per the 98679.



Price £249.99 from **DRAPER Tools**

Max pressure	165 bar	Flow rate	6.0 ltr/min
Hose length	6 metres	Nozzles	Six inc Turbo Lance
Cable length	5 metres	Weight	18 kg

Max pressure	180 bar
Hose length	10 metres
Cable length	5 metres
Flow rate	9.5 ltr/min
Nozzles	Vario and Dirt Blaster
Weight	28 kg

Erbauer EBPW3000

A very smart looking washer with a hose reel, very powerful and very versatile. Good for masonry and patios as well as boats and vehicles. Featuring an air-cooled, brushless motor, powering a heavy-duty pump connected to a 10 metre, high-pressure hose. Accessories are housed in a lidded compartment, to the rear of the washer, consisting of a multi nozzle fitting and a detergent bottle that fits onto the lance.



Price £369.99 from

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Polyvine Varnish and paint remover

Polyvine have released an eco-friendly Varnish and Paint Remover. Available online now, this product contains none of the chemicals that other removers on the market have. The ultra-low solvent and ultra-low VOC content, means that this is a safe and effective method of removing years of varnish and paint build up. Polyvine Varnish and Paint Remover is available in 1L, 2L and 4L bottles, and will start to appear in Polyvine stockists over the coming months. Keep an eye on the Polyvine website and social media for more updates.

www.polyvine.co.uk



Timbabil build BASIC Starter Kit

The Timbabil build BASIC starter kit is the latest offering from the UK manufacturer of Epoxy Wood Fillers. The BASIC kit is designed for the decorator that has their own storage system in place, and offers an economic entry level kit that contains everything to start making 50-year guaranteed wood repairs. The BASIC Kit comprises of a metal extrusion tool with lifetime guarantee, EHB60 4-hour curing filler for large repairs, ERC10

1 hour curing adhesive for Splicing, the EWS primer and Timbaglaze heritage putty replacement (hybrid type) which you can paint after 1 hour. Each kit has some filling knives and safety gloves to get you started straight out of the box. The kit is packed neatly in this compartmented handy recyclable packaging. All this for a very affordable inflation busting price tag.

www.timbabilbuild.co.uk



Werner PROPLUS Mobile Access Tower

Werner has launched the PROPLUS Mobile Access Tower, a new mobile tower which boasts an ergonomic lightweight modular system, is designed to reach up to 5.4m, providing a safe and stable platform for industry professionals working at height. The PROPLUS Mobile Access Tower is easy to erect, with the stackable system allowing users to build up to three working heights. Designed with a sturdy platform at the top of the tower featuring a trapdoor for easy access, it also has toe boards around the platform to prevent tools from falling. Certified to the latest EN 1004-1:2020 safety standard, this new tower features swivel castors which enable it to be moved easily, as well as a folding base frame single unit for quick and simple assembly. The compact base unit can also fit in the boot of most cars or vans, perfect for those using it on the move. This sturdy platform has a load capacity of 184kg, as well as 250mm rung spacing up the side of the frame, enabling easy climbing to the top platform. Offering a lightweight, adjustable and sturdy solution, the tower also features stabilisers on each corner of the frame, providing improved stability and designed to bring height safety to any job.

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Used extensively in the automotive and construction industries, this is the first time this technology has been applied to wallpaper. The coating obtains an elimination rate of 99.9% in just one hour and stays effective for at least 12 years.

The coating also adds to the surface abrasion resistance, meaning it can withstand regular wiping, scrubbing and is resilient to wear and tear. Due to its heavy-duty nature, this wallpaper is ideal for the work and family environment where there are large amounts of traffic and people.

www.grandecogroup.com

Makita MW001GZ – Microwave Oven

Makita has launched a cordless microwave oven, driven by the company's powerful 40VMax XGT battery this exciting product fits in seamlessly with Makita's expanding XGT power tool collection, enabling users to swap batteries between tasks.

With 500W or 350W settings, it's large enough to fit most microwave containers and allows users to enjoy hot meals whether on site, on the road, or at leisure.

Powered by one or two batteries, it utilises the power sequentially for up to 37 minutes continuous power (two BL4080F batteries at 500W).

To withstand tough conditions such as building sites, this compact and durable microwave has been manufactured with a tempered door glass and is dust and water resistant. The appliance also features large carry handles and a carry strap for easy transportation.

www.makitauk.com

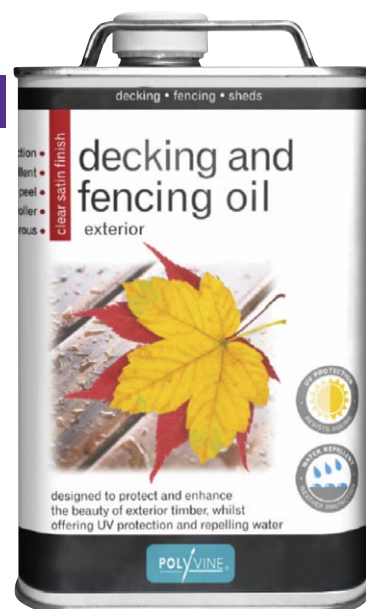
Polyvine decking and fencing oil

Polyvine have released the one coat Decking & Fencing Oil, developed to be quick to use, containing UV protection and is also water repellent.

With the sun now making an appearance, people all over the UK & Ireland will be starting to refresh their outdoor timber, so now is the perfect time to stock up.

Polyvine Decking & Fencing Oil is available online now in 2.5 litres and 5 litre cans, and will also start to appear in Polyvine stockists over the coming months. Keep an eye online for more updates.

www.polyvine.com



FLEX Giraffe

Decisively more flexible, significantly more efficient, only the FLEX Giraffe features the innovative interchangeable head system, enabling sanding of the toughest and hardest to reach surfaces and corners and transitioning between wall and ceiling without interruption. All others are compromises.

The Giraffe provides comfortable and ergonomic working conditions, with optimal balance between motor and sanding head, reliable force transmission and high flexibility thanks to the flexible drive shaft from established 'FLEX technology'. Thanks to this design principle the weight on the head of the Giraffe is reduced to a minimum.

www.flex-tools.com



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Tested and Approved

To ensure that Diamond Matt lives up to decorators' expectations, it underwent a series of rigorous tests. Following laboratory testing, Dulux Trade asked professional decorators to review the product in three stages:

- 1 Assessments by a member of the Dulux panel of professional decorators
- 2 Assessments by a panel of external professional decorators
- 3 External field trials

The *Tested & Approved* seal of approval means decorators can trust that Dulux Trade products have been trialed by likeminded professionals, meets their needs and those of their clients.



Dulux Trade New and Improved *Diamond Matt*

The paint industry has seen some huge developments over the last few years, with new products launching looking to meet the ever-evolving needs of decorators and clients. One such example is Dulux Trade Diamond Matt, which has been a vital part of decorators' arsenals since 2019. In fact, it was the first durable paint launched to market, praised for its stain repellent technology and durable, uniform finish.

However, Dulux Trade is constantly looking for ways to improve its products and ensure they meet the needs of trade partners. In line with this, it has reformulated the Dulux Trade Diamond Matt range with customer feedback in mind, retaining the durability tradespeople rely on but offering a more sustainable formula that is easy to work with and advocated by likeminded tradespeople.

Durability

Paint durability is hugely important, it was therefore imperative that this element of the original formula was retained.

However, the new formulation also delivers additional resistance to oil-based stains, and can also withstand the equivalent of five hours non-stop scrubbing, so it can be easily cleaned. Durability also helps make a project more sustainable, as surfaces don't need to be re-decorated as regularly.

Ease of Use

The new formula delivers a flatter matt finish and enhanced opacity, providing a great finish. It has also been designed with innovative binder technology, forming a film even at low temperatures, meaning decoration can be carried out efficiently with little disruption to the client.

Dulux Trade Diamond Matt is available in 150 additional extra deep colours, offering even more choice to suit every style.

Sustainability

In a recent survey, 71% of professional decorators said clients now regularly request sustainable paint options. Dulux Trade Diamond Matt is now 99.9% VOC (volatile organic compound) free, meaning it has a reduced impact on the overall carbon footprint of a project. For further reassurance, the product is also compliant with green building accreditations BREEAM, LEED and WELL.

www.duluxtrade.co.uk/diamondmatt



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www.paintandpaperlibrary.com

New **Architects' Gloss**

With a gloss level of 85%, the new water-based paint can be used on any surface, from radiators to walls and tiles for wall-to-wall, rich, durable colour. Tough, flexible and hardwearing, it is suitable for interior and exterior woodwork, furniture, metalwork and radiators.

Reformulated **Architects' Eggshell**

A high-performance finish suitable for all interior and exterior woodwork, metalwork, furniture and radiators. Fully washable, drying to a smooth low sheen of 10-20%, it is perfect for a subtle, yet protective finish on interior and exterior woodwork and metalwork.

Reformulated **Architects' Satinwood**

A self-priming satin finish particularly suited to high traffic areas and woodwork. Also suitable for exterior use, it achieves an elegant satin finish, with a subtle sheen of 30-35%.

Reformulated **Architects' Matt**

A completely scrubbable matt emulsion with excellent scuff and stain resistance. An ultra-low sheen of 3-5% provides a beautiful flat finish that can cope with all the activity of the modern family home. This newly reformulated finish can now be used across walls, woodwork, radiators and tiles. An effective, hard-wearing paint suitable for both interior and exterior use.



Front door and fanlight
– Architect's Eggshell in Nori



Masonry – Architect's Matt in Glass 1
Door – Architect's Eggshell in Deep Water



Porch – Architect's Satinwood in Fuji
Door – Satinwood in Roben's Honour



Door – Architect's Eggshell in Aqua Viva
Surround – Architect's Matt in Stone IV

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Libéron

Superior Decking Stain & Superior Protection Woodstain

www.liberon.co.uk

Better weather means that now is the ideal time to recommend to customers that their exterior woodwork is taken care of. Time spent properly protecting it now, means it will be shielded from late summer sunshine and the worst that autumn and winter can throw at it. Professional painters and decorators undertaking exterior projects can optimise profit opportunities by including exterior woodwork maintenance and protection as part of the work undertaken.

Professionals have relied on Libéron, for many years in order to be sure of achieving the high-quality results their customers want. With woodcare in its DNA, the brand's products for interior use are complemented by an exterior timber decking oil. Now, the company has turned to other formulations for outdoor application, and is investing in this part of the market in order to help drive it forwards with a comprehensive woodcare offer.

Superior in every way

The company has just launched Superior Protection Woodstain and Superior Decking Stain, both offer users genuine features and benefits, along with a new look that modernises the brand, and will see Libéron's products for interior application later follow suit.

One of the key features of the new packaging is its colour coding for each product area, which makes it easier to select the right product for the right application.

Protection that lasts

Superior Protection Woodstain has an eight-year guarantee for outstanding protection that makes it ideal for outdoor cladding, window frames or doors. After just three hours the first coat is dry, ready for the application of a second coat, which is all that is needed. So, unlike most other comparable woodstains, the job can be completed in one day, which is good news for time management and therefore profitability.

With a quick-drying satin finish that enhances exterior timber, the new woodstain is smooth and simple to apply. Whilst being

water-repellent, it nevertheless has a formulation that makes it microporous once dry, which allows wood to breathe.

The non-drip formulation is suitable for most hard and soft woods, new or old, and can be applied over most existing woodstains. Flexible with wood movement, this great quality woodstain is water-repellent and has UV filters, making it ideal for outdoor woods that are exposed to bad weather conditions or lots of sun. It is available in six colours in a satin finish.

Hit the deck

Libéron's new Superior Decking Stain is water-repellent, protects against damage from sunlight, looks fabulous and has a 'biosourced' formula which includes vegetable oils and modified bio-based resins, reducing environmental impact.

Offering protection against moisture and sunlight, the stain's water-based formulation also includes anti-slip properties. Easy to apply thanks to an excellent spreading rate, Superior Decking Stain is quick-drying, producing a natural, semi-transparent finish once dry. It is also offered in six colours.



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