



Issue 05 - 2007



“ Now the summer rush is over, it's a good time to delve into those corners and to do lists and yank out some of those jobs that never quite made it to the top of the to do list earlier. A wise man once told me that you need to sit back from time to time and assess where things are up to otherwise you can be so busy fighting off crocodiles that you forget your original aim was to drain the swamp! Resene has done a wee clean out around the place and managed to move along a few projects that were stuck in the work traffic jam, which means that you now have some more products at your disposal to get the job done. And if going green is on your to do list, you might just want to start by looking at what paint stripper you use... ”

Green strippers

We all know of paint jobs where the substrate and previous paint layers seemed sound... until more paint was painted on and then the paint failed at the interface between the original substrate and primer because the old paint system just couldn't hang on any longer.

Paint strippers have long been associated with toxic nasty ingredients, hazardous to both health and the environment. Years ago Resene used to sell a methylene chloride based paint stripper, until we found that it was extremely hazardous to users, at which time the product was phased out because we decided we'd rather lose those sales than knowingly offer such a hazardous product to customers. And we've never sold a methylene chloride based paint stripper since. Yet surprisingly years later they are still on the market.

Still we don't believe in risking your health, which is why Resene provides its own **Resene Strip-Off** product plus two products made by other suppliers – the i-Strip speedheater system and Sea2Sky paint strippers.

Sea2Sky paint strippers are a range of waterbased paint strippers designed to remove various coatings and residues from metal, concrete, brick and wood substrates. Available in a series of SPC201, 202 and 203, these paint

strippers will sort out most paint stripping jobs with ease. You use them in a similar manner to the toxic paint strippers available but without all the unwanted risks.

SPC 201 is a multifunctional waterbased product designed to remove various architectural coatings and residues mainly from porous substrates including wood and concrete. Such coatings and residues include: grease, oil and paint (various alkyds, latexes and oil based paints).

SPC 202 is a multifunctional waterbased product designed to remove various commercial coatings and residues mainly from metal, concrete, brick and wood substrates. Such coatings and residues include: salts and paint (latexes, oil based and epoxies). Suitable for removal of anti-fouling on gel-coated fibreglass.

SPC 203 is a multifunctional waterbased product designed to remove various industrial coatings and residues mainly from metal and concrete substrates and provide thorough bacterial removal. Such coatings and residues include: rust, salts, paint (high solid epoxies, industrial polyurethanes, enamels, polyureas and alkyds).

For info as to what to use where check out www.sea2sky.co.nz or see your Resene ColorShop.

And just to make using them easier, the Sea2Sky website has some handy tips how to get the best of using the SPC range...

- The product will work faster in direct sunlight than in the shade, so if you are planning to strip large areas follow the sun around the project.
- Apply the product evenly and liberally – once applied you shouldn't see the paint colour underneath.
- On timber, once the product has worked, scrape the paint off and rinse with water. This works better than waterblasting the product and paint off.
- Be patient! Dwell times can vary depending on the temperature, paint type, amount of layers being removed, substrate and so on. In the best conditions it may take 10 minutes, in the worst conditions and on a cold winter day it can take up to 12 hours.
- The product will generally stay wet/damp for a long period, so if it hasn't achieved the desired effect, give it a bit longer to get the job done.
- On larger projects do a test patch first to check which product is right for the project, how much you need to use and the dwell time required to get the desired result.
- And of course, make sure you thoroughly wash off the product residues before you repaint!

But what say you don't want to apply a paint stripper? Well then the i-Strip system might just be what you are after...

The **i-Strip Speedheater System** removes paint and varnish from wood using infra-red technology developed in Sweden and is suitable for everything from house exteriors, external windows frames, removal of putty from windows, internal windows frames, architraves, skirting boards, furniture and wooden boats to interior and exterior doors.

The main product in the range is the **Speedheater 1100** complemented by a variety of accessories to make paint removal even easier. The **Speedheater**

1100 is silent, easy to use and environmentally friendly, reducing stripping time considerably.

The **Speedheater 1100** uses infra-red heat to remove most kinds of paint and varnish. Infra-red heat is a low temperature deep heat that penetrates the wood and draws the moisture and resins in the wood to the surface. This breaks the bond between the wood and the bottom layer of paint or varnish and enables the removal of multiple layers at a time. It heats the surface to be stripped in about 30-90 seconds. The paint or varnish bubbles up and separates from the wood. It can then be scraped off easily while heating up the next section. After stripping, the surface can be painted immediately.

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Infra-red heat has a low operating temperature (100 – 200°C) so it does not burn the wood or the paint like a heat gun, so the chances of damaging the wood or accidentally starting a fire are greatly reduced. It's safe to use on lead paint as no plumbic (lead) gases are released at this low temperature, unlike a heat gun. The infra-red heat it gives off is the same level of radiation produced by the embers of an open fire ensuring it is a safe alternative. With no chemical residues, clean up is a breeze – just sweep up the paint ready for disposal.

Infra-red heat removes moisture and mildew from the wood, drawing moisture out during the stripping process. The wood's natural resins are also drawn to the surface during the infra-red process increasing the ability of the wood to

withstand moisture. Removing moisture from the wood opens the grain of the wood creating a porous substrate and a tooth for the primer to grip on to. This extends the life of the new paint layer and will keep the paint job and your reputation looking good for longer.

So, there you have it, two 'green' paint stripping options to choose from and as a bonus you'll reduce the hazards of paint stripping for you and your staff. Next time you need paint stripping equipment or products, ask your Resene team to assist... and if they don't have the item on hand that you are looking for, they can order it in for you. If you're going to use a **Resene Environmental Choice approved paint system**, you might as well make sure the paint stripper used is worker and earth friendly too.

Newbies

The new kids on the block are **Crown Timber Colour White** and **Crown Acrylic Wallboard Sealer**, both of which pretty much explain themselves! **Crown Timber Colour White** is an extension of the **Crown Timber Colour** range and can be used on exterior timber substrates where a more budget painted finish is required. Available in white or tinted to Resene colours off white tone.

Crown Acrylic Wallboard Sealer offers a lower cost option for those needing a branded wallboard sealer for interior paperfaced plasterboard but whose budgetary constraints prevent one of the more premium Resene products with all the bells and whistles being used.

And while we were working on new things, **Resene Flexicover E** was looking a little flat... so its formulation has had a slight tweak so that those that want to can now texture it up using a goop loop roller to achieve a textured roller effect similar to **Resene Thixalon 5**. And if you don't want the textured effect, just brush or spray it on like normal and it'll look just like it always used to.

Drive time

If you're just about to jump into your van to dash off to your next job or grab more paint from Resene, you might just enjoy this joke before you head off...

Speeding

A police officer pulls a guy over for speeding and has the following exchange:

Officer: May I see your driver's licence?

Driver: I don't have one. I had it suspended when I got my 5th conviction for drunk driving.

Officer: May I see the owner's card for this vehicle?

Driver: It's not my car. I stole it.

Officer: The car is stolen?

Driver: That's right. But come to think of it, I think I saw the owner's registration details in the glove box when I was putting my gun in there.

Officer: There's a gun in the glove box?

Driver: Yes sir. That's where I put it after shot and killed the woman who owns this car and stuffed her in the trunk.

Officer: There's a BODY in the TRUNK?!?!?

Driver: Yes, sir.

Hearing this, the officer immediately called his captain. The car was quickly surrounded by police, and the captain approached the driver to handle the tense situation:

Captain: Sir, may I see your licence?

Driver: Sure. Here it is. It was valid.

Captain: Whose car is this?

Driver: It's mine, officer. Here's the owner's registration details. The driver owned the car.

Captain: Could you slowly open your glove box so I can see if there's a gun in it?

Driver: Yes, sir, but there's no gun in it. Sure enough, there was nothing in the glove box.

Captain: Would you mind opening your trunk? I was told you said there's a body in it.

Driver: No problem. Trunk is opened; no body.

Captain: I don't understand it. The officer who stopped you said you told him you didn't have a licence, stole the car, had a gun in the glovebox, and that there was a dead body in the trunk.

Driver: Really? Ain't that something? And I'll bet the lying sucker told you I was speeding too...

More news next month!
Eneser Bucket, Editor.

Eneser ♥
Bucket

Don't get so caught up fighting off crocodiles that you forget to drain the swamp...

