

**wattyl®**

**Paint**

**Maintenance**

**Guide**



# CARE OF PAINTWORK

The lifetime of practically all paint finishes can be extended by performing regular maintenance, such as:

- Washing of the coating,
- And repair of any damage.

## Interior Paints

A three monthly inspection of all painted surfaces and removal of any surface marks, stains or dust is recommended, however, stains should be treated as soon as they are noticed where possible as they will be easier to remove. Ensure the paint film is fully cured first (at least 7 days) or the surface may be damaged.

- Dust using a soft cloth or soft bristled brush to remove any loosely adhering material. Avoid excessive rubbing or abrading as this can result in burnishing or glossing up of the paint film.

- Dab stained or marked areas using a soft sponge soaked in a mild detergent solution. Rinse with clean water and let dry. Avoid excess rubbing or abrading as this can result in glossing up of the paint film. If stains cannot be removed by mild detergent use a proprietary cleaner following the manufacturer's recommendations.

Note: All cleaning treatments should be tested first on an inconspicuous section of wall to ensure they will not cause unacceptable damage to the painted surface.



## Mechanical Damage

Premium and Ultra Premium paint coatings typically used for interior walls in residential and commercial environments are highly washable. However, it is important to take care when washing to remove stains so that the coating appearance remains at its optimum (for example, avoid using abrasive cleaners such as scouring pads and avoid cleaning chemicals which contain any abrasive powder as the paint film can be scratched).

In addition, sticking posters or pictures to painted walls or woodwork using adhesive tape such as sticky tape, masking tape, duct tape etc., or an adhesive putty such as 'Blu-tack' is not recommended as there is a possibility the coating or substrate could become damaged when it is removed – particularly if the adhesive substance has been on the coating for an extended period.

For example, an oily stain may remain in the paint film after removing Blu-tack, or a sticky residue could remain on the surface from the adhesive tape. Removal of these stain or residues often involves solvents and these are likely to damage the coating. Some substrates like plaster may be soft or dusty. Removing tape or Blu-tack will likely pull off the paint and a thin (or thick) layer of the plaster surface. This is not a fault of the paint as the coating is removed with some substrate attached (that is, the paint is sticking to the plaster at the tape/plaster interface, but the plaster is failing cohesively within itself).

Regardless of the exact point of failure, the owner should be prepared to undertake remedial repairs should damage occur after removal of adhesive materials from the painted surface. The tapes should be restricted to "low-tack" painter's tapes that are solely designed for use while painting. They should be removed as soon as painting is complete, and before the maximum duration recommended on the tape.

## Repair / Maintenance

Annual repair of all surface defects is recommended with appropriate patching compounds and paint touch up to these areas using matching paint that imitates the texture of the original coating. Where large areas of touch up are required it is best to repaint the entire section back to a break in the wall, e.g. corner or doorway.

A full repaint of all walls and ceilings should be considered prior to every 10 year period depending on condition. Finishes may last longer but it is much easier to recoat a sound surface, minimizing preparation time and cost.

## Exterior Paints

Regular inspection, cleaning and repair of a paint coating will prolong its serviceability, highlight any structural problems and maintain the appearance of the painted item for longer. Material that is deposited on, or grows into, a paint film can degrade the coating and mask any underlying structural problems that may arise. A simple plan of regular inspection and maintenance will help highlight any potential areas of concern. A once yearly (or more frequently in areas such as coastal regions subject to salt spray, and industrial areas near main roads subject to additional airborne contamination) is recommended.

Cleaning the surface using a “soft wash” approach is recommended.

- Using a combination of mild detergent, a soft brush and low water pressure (<1000psi) clean off dirt and grime deposits to reveal any areas of potential concern.
- Any mould or other fungal growth identified can be treated using a mild bleach solution and then rinsing well with water.
- Surfaces which have started to open due to changes in the substrate may also become apparent; remedial action should be planned to deal with this.
- Identify and repair any underlying issues before recoating the surface.

Note: While most paint finishes are long lasting, it is much easier to repaint a sound surface in good condition than it is repair and repaint a surface which has been left too long and has deteriorated badly.



## Oils, Stain and Varnishes

Regular inspection is recommended with these types of finishes as they often require more maintenance than solid cover paints.

- Clean as above using the soft wash method, identify and treat any mould, and recoat those areas which are showing signs of wear or deterioration. Touch ups/repairs will be very noticeable if they are not controlled and should cover full sections of the oiled or stained substrate.

## Maintenance

Regular maintenance of finished timber surfaces is important. It is a natural product, timber requires regular attention to prevent the onset of changes that can ultimately lead to deterioration. The timber type, finish, colour chosen and the customer's expectations are all involved in setting the maintenance cycle.

Maintenance is further influenced by the degree of exposure to the elements, and, for walk-on surfaces, the level of foot traffic.

Maintenance periods are based on the ongoing requirement to maintain an acceptable appearance on the same timber surface.

Stains and oils are designed to penetrate the timber. Application of excess stain or oil will form a layer on the surface, giving no benefit and may ultimately peel off. It is recommended that when maintaining stained or oiled timber, the exposed, weathered areas are spot stained or oiled on the bare parts, allowed to dry, then one full coat applied over the whole area. This avoids the excessive build-up of stain or oil on the sheltered areas.

## Care

Exterior stained timber will benefit from yearly washing of the surface to remove surface contaminants. Use a mild cleaning agent, following label instructions. It is not recommended to use high pressure water blasting on timber surfaces.

# Technical

**For specific advice relating to your individual project, please phone Watty! Assist:  
Ph: 132101 (AUSTRALIA) | Ph: 0800 825 7727 (NEW ZEALAND)**

1. This information is provided with respect to the listed Hempel (Watty!) products. Hempel (Watty!) recommends that: (a) you review the Technical Data Sheets (TDS) and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) before you use or handle the product; (b) the product be used only in accordance with the information provided by Hempel (Watty!); (c) the product be transported, stored and handled in accordance with the information on the SDS and relevant TDS; and (d) you thoroughly test the product, using the recommended application method on a sample of intended substrate, before using the product.

2. The information in this document was prepared using information gathered during product development. While Hempel (Watty!) endeavours to update this information and maintain the accuracy and currency of its contents, Hempel (Watty!) cannot guarantee that the information provided is wholly comprehensive.

3. Hempel (Watty!) recommends that you conduct such additional investigations as may be necessary to satisfy yourself of the accuracy, currency and comprehensiveness of the information on which you rely in using and handling the product. If you require further information please contact your nearest Hempel (Watty!) Office.

4. To the full extent permitted by Australian Consumer Law or New Zealand Consumer Law, the liability of Hempel (Watty!) for breach of a condition or warranty implied into the contract for sale between Hempel (Watty!) and you by law is limited at the election of Hempel (Watty!) to: (a) the replacement of the product; or (b) payment of the cost of replacing the product.

All brands and product names are registered trademarks of Hempel (Watty!) Australia Pty Ltd 40 000 035 914 and Hempel (Watty!) New Zealand Pty Ltd 942 904 073 3692.



# wattyl®

For further information  
refer to the Technical Data Sheets  
available on our website, or contact  
your Residential Account Manager  
[anz.wattyl.specifier@hempel.com](mailto:anz.wattyl.specifier@hempel.com)

Don't worry, it's **wattyl®**



**WATTYL  
ASSIST**

AUS 132 101  
[wattyl.com.au](http://wattyl.com.au)  
NZ 0800 825 7727  
[wattyl.co.nz](http://wattyl.co.nz)