



# DID YOU KNOW?

- hints and tips from the Technical Department

## INDUSTRIAL LEAD FREE YELLOWS & ORANGES

As of 1 December 2007 Wattyl (NZ) Ltd has adopted the Wattyl Group-wide policy to cease manufacturing of all lead containing paints.

The only products affected are specialist industrial products. Lead containing pigments were removed from paints sold to the retail market in the mid 1970's and lead containing driers, used in trace quantities in enamel paints, were eliminated during 2001.

In the industrial market Lead containing pigments continued to be used to achieve economical bright and strong yellow and orange coloured paints with good opacity. In the case of Wattyl (NZ) Ltd these colours were supplied in Poly U 400, Industrial Enamels and Road Marking paints.

These colours can be achieved using non-lead containing pigments, but cost up to 50% more, coverage is poorer and the colour is usually a metameric match (that is the colour is a match under some lighting conditions and not under others) to the lead containing formulation.

To ensure a satisfactory result when coating an item with a lead free bright yellow or orange colour it is important to achieve obliteration of the substrate using an undercoat prior to applying the finishing colour.

White undercoats are best with bright yellow shades, cream coloured undercoats with yellow-orange and Red Oxide undercoats with red-orange colours. Tinting the undercoat to a pastel version of the top coat colour can also assist in ensuring obliteration of the substrate.

Wattyl believes the complete removal of paint containing lead compounds is a positive move for Wattyl staff, customers and the environment and whilst there will inevitably be issues during this transition, the benefits far outweigh the downsides.

Alternative formulations will be made available, and your Wattyl Representative will advise you accordingly. If you require any further information please don't hesitate in contacting Wattyl Technical Services on 0800 735 551.



For technical advice and assistance telephone toll free  
0800 735 551

