

# DID YOU KNOW?



Hints and tips from the Technical Department

## WALL PAPER

The application of water based sealers and undercoats directly to both vinyl and non-vinyl wall paper can often lead to problems when over coated with water based top coats

- Vinyl coated wall papers contain materials known as plasticisers which provide flexibility to the vinyl coating on the surface of the wall paper. Many water based sealers and undercoats contain solvents, that if applied directly to the paper will dissolve the plasticiser in the vinyl paper causing it to leach into the acrylic paint film. This leaching will cause the water based sealer and subsequent acrylic top coats to remain tacky for extended periods, extremely sensitive to dirt retention and difficult to clean.
- If directly over coated with water based sealers or undercoats the dye in some older non vinyl wall paper may be solubilised and bleed through the acrylic coating. This is common for papers with gold and silver print. This bleeding will often continue to occur through subsequent acrylic coatings applied.
- The application of acrylic or water based coating directly to some wall papers may also result in the re-wetting of the wall paper adhesive. This may result in the wall paper lifting and bubbling.

To prevent either of these problems from occurring, Wattyl recommend that both vinyl and non-vinyl wall papers be treated in the following way:

- Clean down the areas to be painted, Vinyl paper should also be lightly sanded to break the glaze.
- Apply a coat of an **Oil Based Pigmented Sealer** such as UnderProof Pigmented Sealer.
- Apply two coats of an appropriate top coat.