



DID YOU KNOW?

- hints and tips from the Technical Department

Is it an acrylic, enamel or 2-pack?

There are occasions when nobody knows what the existing coating is on the substrate that they wish to have re-coated. It is necessary to know what type of coating was previously applied to ensure compatibility of the new paint that is to be applied to the existing coating.

Equipment

To test the dry paint film you will need the following:

- Acetone (Purchase a small 100mL bottle from your local pharmacy and keep for testing)
- Methylated Spirits
- White rag or cheese cloth
- Soap solution for cleaning

Step one: Is it an acrylic?

- Clean a small test area using the soap solution or a proprietary cleaner. Do this in a spot where damage to the coating will not be highly noticeable as there is no guarantee that the area will be painted immediately.
- Moisten the cloth with methylated spirits and rub the cleaned area in a forward and backward motion at least 10 times.
- Inspect the coating:
 - If the coating has softened so that you can scrape it off with your fingernail then it is an acrylic
 - If the coating has shown no effect apart from in some instances, a change in gloss level, it is either an enamel or a 2-pack

Step Two: Is it an enamel or 2-Pack?

- Clean a small test area using a proprietary cleaner. Do this in a spot where damage to the coating will not be highly noticeable as there is no guarantee that the area will be painted immediately.
- Moisten the cloth with acetone and rub the cleaned area in a forward and backward motion at least 10 times.
- Inspect the coating:
 - If the coating has wrinkled, dissolved or softened so that you can scrape it off with your fingernail then it is an enamel
 - If the coating has shown no effect apart from a change in gloss level it is a 2-pack

Remember

- Use an oil based undercoat if coating an enamel with an acrylic
- Use a water or oil based undercoat if coating an acrylic with an enamel
- Do not apply 2-pack products over either enamels or acrylics unless they have been specifically designed for the task
- Prime with WattyL Killrust Super Etch if coating over a 2-pack with an enamel or an acrylic



For technical advice and assistance telephone
toll free 0800 735 551

