

Press Release



1st February, 2013

INDUSTRY WORKING TOGETHER FOR BEST PRACTICE IN THE PAINTING AND PLASTERING TRADES.

It is great to see industries in the finishing trades working together to solve an ongoing problem.

Master Painters Australia Limited (MPAL) would like to acknowledge the great work by representatives from AWCI, AWCIANZ, Queensland Building Services Authority(QBSA), Dulux, Taubmans, Wattyl ,Master Painters Association of Queensland, Peer Industries, Boral Plasterboard and SkillsTech Australia in developing an industry best practice for the painting and presentation of wallboard finishing.

As it says in the article extract from 'The National Publication of The Association of Wall & Ceiling Industries' attached to this press release about obtaining a copy of the *AS/NZ 2589:2007 Gypsum Linings Application and Finishing Standard, for painters to meet the best industry practice they should obtain a copy of the *AS/NZ 2311:2009 Painting of Buildings and **The Industry Standard for The Surface Coating Industry. Although we are always being pushed into taking short cuts the only way is the right way to meet the quality of finishes the consumer has right to expect.

Master Painters Australia National Spokesman- Mr Mark Amos

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Plaster and Paint Display at Skills Tech

August/ September 2012



A group of people from the AWCI, paint manufacturers and Master Painters Association got together and set up a display, using various different models, to measure painting and plaster practices in the field compared to best practice and to determine what changes needed to be implemented on the outcome of the results.

Why this issue is important

Consumer expectations continue to raise the bar for our industry. Whilst technology is increasing and making it more efficient and easier for the trades, a quality result is being hampered by factors including a loss of skilled tradespeople from the industry and pricing pressures impacting on quality and choice of systems.

Paint and Plastering is still one of the key issues on the top 10 lists of defects from Government regulatory agencies in every state. Unless we can analyse the reasons for unsatisfactory finished product and put in place measures to address them then poor practice will become industry norm.

This is not about adding additional costs to industry; it's about removing the costs of call backs, rework and rectification.

PREAMBLE

This display was predominately about best practice, education, and the commencement of a process to bring change to current systems and methods with regard to the preparation and decoration of plasterboard and fibre cement sheeting for the benefit of all stakeholders.

Anyone that spends time on the job site or becomes involved in dispute resolution will already know that we all need to do better with all facets of preparation and decoration of plasterboard and fibre cement sheeting.

Objectives of the Exercise

- Strengthen the plasterers' and painters' position in the dispute resolution process.
- Identify where responsibilities lie regarding paper scuffing, nap raising and pre paint patching.

- Identify the limitations of both paint and plasterboard (e.g. blemish free finishes and high gloss applications).
- Raise awareness on the proper inspection process for decorated plasterboard surfaces.
- Educate trades and consumers on the specific guidelines for the application of Level 4 and 5 finishes.
- To develop a set of tangible results to reinforce that working in strict accordance of the Australian Standards and manufacturers specifications does provide the minimum performance requirements for the industry.
- To use the results of the exercise for education of the trades and to assist the rapid uptake of best practice across the entire market.
- Use the results of the exercise to educate major industry players (e.g. Contract Builders who have a significant influence on actual industry practice and on site practices).
- Creating a platform to allow a united stand by Paint and Plaster manufacturers and Trades People to present to consumers the facts about quality, price, performance and realistic expectations.

Observations & Conclusions from the Display

- Premium paints clearly showed superior results and roller finishes proved superior to spray finishes, during the display exercise.
- It is understood that the spray method of painting is here to stay and is a tool of trade of a qualified painter and is a necessary piece of equipment.



Where the application of a 3 coat paint system comprising a coat of quality wallboard sealer/ undercoat and two coats of premium paint over a well prepared standard plasterboard background completed all in accordance within the strict guidelines of AS 2311 (paint) and AS2589 (plaster), the result was excellent.

- For plaster finishes, you cannot just spray and walk away, as there are other requirements to give a satisfactory result (e.g. back rolling). Spray alone will not equalise or disguise surface variations between textured face paper and smooth sanded joints.
- Back rolling provides a texture and is imperative for hiding power and the elimination of nap raising and/or scuffing of the face paper. Plasterers should endeavour to minimize scuffing of the face paper in accordance with the standards AS 2589.
- Maintaining a wet edge on the substrate when back rolling during spray application is necessary.
- Any spray mist coat without back roll will aggravate the surface and cannot provide a suitable background for subsequent coats.



- Light sanding between coats primarily the sealer undercoat is a very important part of the painting process as well as identifying surface irregularities prior to the final coat being applied.
- Porosity and texture differences are not satisfied with some systems.
- Glancing/parallel light also known as critical light when applicable, plays a significant role in overall acceptance of the painted plasterboard.
- The sealer undercoat penetrated and may have

resoftened or affected some compounds, clogging the sandpaper and increasing the drying time between coats. It was noted that the sealer undercoat was not drying at the recommended rate, on an exceptionally good drying day. Data sheets for new setting compound need to be issued to all parties involved in this process.



Where to from here

- Present these findings to manufacturers and seek their support for a concerted industry drive for improvement.
- With the support of manufacturers, approach HIA, MBA and other key industry bodies to bring industry practices and expectations into line.
- As with the first step the next stage will need input from key personnel in the plasterboard and coatings industries.
- In conjunction with paint manufacturers, look at the compatibility of soft compounds with certain paint systems.

Pre Paint Patching

Pre-paint patching is a new segment of the plastering trade. Most plasterers now employ specialist pre-paint patchers. This has become a necessary part of meeting today's expectations. Further studies need to be conducted to determine the best approach to this from both trades

- Establish a joint task force between MPA and AWCI to address this issue



Clarification and education on sealer undercoats

Further work also needs to be conducted, to overcome:-

- Scratches from the sanding process showing through the paint finish which will require further investigation into soft setting compounds sanding techniques and the painting process.
- Nap raising and paper scuffing by mechanical and manual sanders and the reduction/removal of, using the spray and roller process.
- Texture differences.
- Porosity variations, including bleeding of the background.
- Touching up issues.
- Coverage with some colours over the White/off white colours
- The need to sand small patches and compound over screw holes which has evolved since the introduction of soft compounds in conjunction with the spray method and the reduction of the use of premium grade paints.

Acknowledgements

The success to date has been due to the involvement of Skills Tech Aust, without whose valuable help, this exercise may not have come to fruition. The following participants have also contributed in the successful outcomes of the displays

Dulux Paints
 Taubmans Paints
 Solver Paints
 The Wall and Ceiling Association
 The Queensland Building Services Authority
 The Master Painters Association
 Wattyl Paints

Thanks also to the suppliers of materials as above and to:-

Peer Industries
 Boral Plasterboard

A final thanks to all the volunteers who have made this possible.

This has been an exercise in cooperation between industry stake holders and is a work in progress.



TRADE TRAINING NEWS

Plasterers and Painters Working Together Towards Best Practice

It's that age old question that everyone seems to have an opinion on – what is actually an acceptable plasterboard finish?

Come to the end of the job and it always seems to be the plasterer and painter that miss out due to this question that invariably is the justification from the customer to not pay; I am sure you are all familiar with this. Let's face it; plasterboard is an organic product that when installed and finished according to AS/NZS 2589: 2007 provides a solid substrate for paint application. However, problems start once you factor in critical light from any source (halogen lamp, sunlight etc.), gloss paints, dark colours, unreasonable client/builder expectations, the many types of board and compounds in use now, various painting applications... the list goes on!

With this in mind, the AWCI has been working towards developing an industry best practice to try to alleviate such headaches for those in the plastering and painting trades.

Best practice is a mutually agreeable benchmark that can evolve to become better as improvements are discovered. Best practices are often used to maintain quality as an alternative to, or complement, mandatory legislated standards.

Earlier this year, the AWCIANZ met with the Queensland Building Services Authority (QBSA), Wattyl, Dulux, Taubmans and the Master Painters Association at the SkillsTech Australia TAFE to develop an industry best practice in an effort to reduce the sorts of issues mentioned above. After a number of discussions the AWCIANZ, Master Painters, QBSA and paint

manufacturers were able to highlight and document areas where these issues became apparent. It was also decided upon to set up a number of real-life simulations of plasterboard walls and ceilings, where thickness of paints, coverage from spray gun or nap roller, critical light, suction and porosity of different substrates and compounds could be assessed and measured. The QBSA were on hand to record and document the whole process and a DVD will be produced as a reference and education tool for the many stakeholders involved.

I would like to encourage those of you who don't have a copy of the AS/NZS 2589: 2007 Gypsum Linings Application and Finishing Australian Standard to get your hands on one; it's an extremely informative read.

Secondly, I would like to commend the AWCIANZ, Master Painters, QBSA, Wattyl, Dulux and Taubmans for getting together to develop Best Practice for our trades – it is certainly a long overdue step in the right direction.

See page 21 for the industry report on the project undertaken at SkillsTech QLD.

By Matthew Fogg – Wall and Ceiling Lining Teacher, SkillsTech Australia

For further information, please contact SkillsTech Australia, phone 1800 654 447 or visit: www.skillstech.tafe.qld.gov.au