

**TECHNICAL ADVICE** 

## GENERAL Water based vs Oil based enamel paints





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USAGE	Water Based Enamels (Acrylic Enamels)	Solvent Based Enamels (Oil or Turps based Alkyds)
Application & Handling Properties	<ul> <li>Non flammable</li> <li>Lower odour</li> <li>Reduced volatile organic compounds (VOC)</li> <li>Clean up with water</li> <li>More tolerant of damp surfaces</li> <li>Usually touch dry in 20-30 minutes</li> <li>Usually recoatable in 2 hours</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Contains flammable solvents</li> <li>Strong odour due to solvent fumes</li> <li>High level of volatile organic compounds (VOC)</li> <li>Clean up with mineral turps</li> <li>Surface needs to be completely dry</li> <li>Usually touch dry in 6-8 hours</li> <li>Usually recoatable in 16 hours</li> </ul>
Interior Use Properties	<ul> <li>Non yellowing</li> <li>Gloss and semi-gloss sheen levels</li> <li>Not able to produce a brilliant gloss or as smooth a finish</li> <li>Full range of colours</li> <li>Not always suitable for harsh treatment areas</li> <li>Not suitable for all window frames (blocking or sticking can occur)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Tends to yellow in absence of UV</li> <li>Full gloss and semi-gloss sheen levels</li> <li>Able to produce a brilliant gloss and very smooth finish</li> <li>Restricted colour range</li> <li>Excellent resistance to wear &amp; tear (harder and more abrasion resistant)</li> <li>Generally suitable on all window types or frames (non-sticking)</li> </ul>
Exterior Use Properties	More flexible hence more able to cope with substrate expansion and contraction (good for exterior timber)     Retains its sheen level well over extended periods of time in UV     Excellent UV durability (better resistance against chalking & colour fade)	<ul> <li>Less flexible and becomes harder and more brittle with age (not good for exterior timber due to cracking)</li> <li>Not capable of retaining its initial sheen level over time in UV</li> <li>Poor UV durability (becomes chalky and more faded in short time frame)</li> </ul>
General Use Properties	<ul> <li>Excellent for use on masonry due to resistance to alkalis</li> <li>Resistant to alkalis in zinc-rich metals</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Not resistant to alkalis present in masonry (paint will lose adhesion)</li> <li>Not resistant to alkalis in zinc-rich metals</li> </ul>

Note: A water-based enamel system is recommended where maximum exterior durability is the prime consideration. A solvent-based enamel system will provide greater resistance to wear and tear along with superior flow and levelling.

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Worth doing, worth Dulux.



1956 Dandenong Road Clayton Victoria 3168 Australia T 13 23 77 www.dulux.com.au/trade www.dulux.com.au/specifier