



SOLUTIONS

YELLOWING ALKYD ENAMEL: WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT

Governmental regulations that came into effect in late 1999 have had a profound effect on the quality of alkyd (oil based) enamels and undercoats available for use in the architectural paint market. These new governmentally regulated alkyd enamels have become more difficult to apply, take longer to dry, and have a stronger tendency to yellow and discolor over time than previous alkyd enamels.

Even with today's high quality alkyds, there is one main inherent weakness that has only become more pronounced. Under the right conditions, no matter how good or expensive the alkyd enamel is, the enamel will be susceptible to a gradual ambering or yellowing of the finish. This yellowing occurs as a photochemical reaction to natural vegetable oils that are a key component in alkyd resins. This yellowing usually occurs in darkened areas, such as on trim, inside of closed closets, and especially on pocket doors that are left open (slid into their pocket). In addition to slight yellowing due to reduced light areas, the presence of ammonia in the atmosphere can also accelerate yellowing. This ammonia is a common constituent of latex wall paints, which as they dry, release this ammonia into the painted room. If the room is closed off and not ventilated, especially in combination with the heat common in Florida, this ammonia can react with the alkyd enamel causing accelerated yellowing. This yellowing is not in any way due to a defect in the manufacture or formulation of the paint, but is a natural occurrence among all brands and qualities of alkyd enamels. Scott Paint is very proud of the fact that it manufactures an extremely yellowing resistant alkyd enamel through the use of an expensive bleached polyol alkyd resin made specifically to resist yellowing as well as utilizing zinc oxide pigment, which is a proven yellowing buffer. However, even under the best circumstances, especially in pure white without any toner, alkyd enamels can only be made resistant to yellowing, not yellowing proof.

Recommendation:

If a pure white color, or just an extremely light pastel color is selected for interior trim and doors, to absolutely guarantee a non-yellowing, long term appearance, acrylic latex semi-gloss and gloss enamels are recommended. Scott Allgrip Semi-Gloss #435 and Gloss #445, Scott Scrubmaster® Semi-Gloss #270 and Gloss #290, and Scott Ultra 100% Acrylic Supercoat Semi-Gloss #430 and Gloss #440 have all demonstrated the ability to work well indoors, and never yellow. Scott Paint Company cannot accept any responsibility for the yellowing of any of its alkyd enamels, as the state-of-the-art technology is that they are yellowing resistant, but not yellowing proof. Increasingly, new homebuilders as well as renovation painters have found that the Scott Allgrip, Ultra, and Scrubmaster® products provide very high quality performance without the risk of any yellowing. For further information or advice, please contact your Scott Paint representative.

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