



B&Q Paint Buying Standard

August 2015

Policy Lead: Laurence Turnbull



Introduction

This document presents B&Q's policy for the purchase of paints and decorative sundries. It contains the rules that must be adhered to, advance warning on upcoming requirements and guidance on how to achieve best practice.

Aim

To minimise the average concentration of VOCs being sold throughout B&Q's paint and decorative sundries range. To maximise the proportion of best practice paint and decorative sundry products that B&Q sells.

This policy covers the following types of product:

- paints and varnishes;
- primers, undercoats, sealers and stabilisers;
- timber treatments, woodstains and dyes;
- damp sealers, water sealers, roof sealers and stain blockers;
- patio sealers, paving block sealers and drive sealers (but not patio and path cleaners);
- algae and bacteria killers for garden furniture, timber and greenhouses;
- waxes and polishes;
- wood oils;
- wood fillers;
- thinners, brush cleaners and paint strippers; and
- any of the above products delivered by aerosol.

Any reference to 'paint product', in this policy refers to any of the product types given above, all of which must conform to the following requirements

Rules

Legislative requirements and B&Q's minimum standards

EU Directive 2004/42/CE sets legal requirements for the maximum VOC concentrations of different types of paint. For some categories B&Q enforces internal minimum standards that exceed these legal requirements.

All paint sold by B&Q must meet legislative requirements, B&Q branded or exclusive paints must comply with the requirements set out in Table 1 below.



Range requirements

The following product types must be included within B&Q's or exclusive paint and decorative sundries range:

- A Minimal VOC (water based) trim paint range.
- Lower VOC alternatives to white spirit.

Labelling requirements

All paint and decorative sundry products must meet the labelling requirements outlined in B&Q's Paint Labelling Standards.

Upcoming Rules

No change anticipated

Best Practise Recommendations

In addition to meeting the minimum requirements, buyers are encouraged to source paint ranges that demonstrate exemplary environmental credentials. These include:

- Recycled paints that have been made using leftover post-consumer waste paint.
- Paints that have a Zero VOC concentration.
- Paint ranges produced by manufacturers who can demonstrate that their range has achieved a reduced environmental impact, e.g. carbon footprint

For more information, please refer to the latest One Planet Home standards. These can be acquired from the Social Responsibility team.

Reporting Requirements and Key Performance Indicators

B&Q's Social Responsibility team will monitor and report upon the following key performance indicator:

- The average (mean) concentration of VOCs being sold across the paint and decorative sundries range.

Table 1

Cat.	Product Subcategory	Type	Legal requirement (g/l)	Globe	Max VOC for B&Q own brand (g/l)	Globe
a	Interior matt walls and ceilings (Gloss <25@600)	WB	30	LOW	2.9	MINIMAL
		SB	30	LOW	2.9	MINIMAL
b	Interior glossy walls and ceilings (Gloss >25@600)	WB	100	MEDIUM	2.9	MINIMAL
		SB	100	MEDIUM	100	MEDIUM
c	Exterior walls of mineral substrate	WB	40	LOW	40	LOW
		SB	430	HIGH	430	HIGH
d (i)	Interior trim and cladding paints for wood and metal	WB	130	MEDIUM	79.9	LOW (*)
		SB	300	HIGH	300	HIGH
d (ii)	Exterior trim and cladding paints for wood and metal	WB	130	MEDIUM	130	MEDIUM
		SB	300	HIGH	300	HIGH
e	Interior/exterior trim varnishes and woodstains, including opaque woodstains	WB	130	MEDIUM	130	MEDIUM
		SB	400	HIGH	400	HIGH
f	Interior and exterior minimal build woodstains	WB	130	MEDIUM	130	MEDIUM
		SB	700	VERY HIGH	700	VERY HIGH
g	Primers	WB	30	LOW	30	LOW
		SB	350	HIGH	350	HIGH
h	Binding primers	WB	30	LOW	30	LOW
		SB	750	VERY HIGH	750	VERY HIGH
i	One-pack performance coatings	WB	140	MEDIUM	140	MEDIUM
		SB	500	HIGH	500	HIGH
j	Two-pack reactive performance coatings for	WB	140	MEDIUM	140	MEDIUM

	specific end use such as floors	SB	500	HIGH	500	HIGH
k	Multi-coloured coatings	WB	100	MEDIUM	79.9	LOW
		SB	100	MEDIUM	100	MEDIUM
l	Decorative effect coatings	WB	200	MEDIUM	79.9	LOW
		SB	200	MEDIUM	200	MEDIUM

Linked Policies

- B&Q Paint Labelling Standards
- Kingfisher Packaging Standards
- Guidance Note Making Good Green Claims

Further Reading

- EU Directive 2004/42/CE