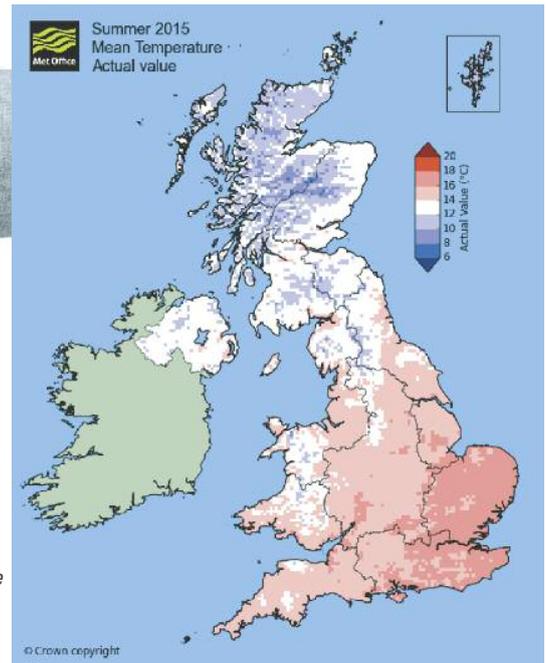


Jon Timmers from Go!Paint explains what makes one of their latest innovations, FlowControl, a key product for all decorators.



Even during summer months, the average temperature in the UK barely reaches the levels required for good paint flow.

## How to paint better – whatever the weather

As the year moves through winter towards early spring, and the temperature drops, not all painting jobs are possible. Outdoor work may be put on hold until the warmer weather and the focus may be on inside projects. However, even inside, colder temperatures can affect the end result on the work.

The ideal temperature for flow of paint is 20°C to 24°C, which is an awful lot warmer than winter temperatures across the UK, and often even over our 'summer' (see map above). When paint is too cold it affects the viscosity of the paint, making it more difficult to cut in, heavier to work with and, generally, you will use more paint to cover a surface.

This can be reduced by thinning the paint, but you are then altering the chemical structure of the paint which can affect the sheen level of the paint, its opacity and thickness.

It was solving this problem that led to the invention of *FlowControl*, a paint bucket that heats the paint to optimal level for painting. As the paint gets warmer the molecules move faster, giving better flow and coverage and easier application. So without changing the chemical integrity of the paint so the sheen level and thickness of the paint remain at the correct level.

The bucket works on a rechargeable battery that lasts for up to 6-8 hours and keeps hot water warm in the outer bucket, keeping the paint at an optimal temperature in the inner bucket. The exact time of which you can work with the *FlowControl* is strongly dependent upon the ambient temperature, wind, amount of paint in the kettle and temperature setting.

In tests with decorators, we found that working with warmer paint increases the speed of application, saving up to 30 minutes a day and gives more coverage as the correct thickness can be applied. If all this means another coat can be applied sooner, then jobs can be completed in a shorter time to provide a much better profit margin.

The product is doing very well in Holland, where Go!Paint are based and was received very well at the National Painting & Decorating Show in December. As the weather starts to get colder, the product comes into its own and really becomes a very cost effective purchase.

Criterion	Thick paint	Thinned paint	Heated paint (FC)
Weight of system	Normal	Normal	Heavier (+1.2 kg)
Application force	Too much, heavy	Good	Good
Ease of application	Heavy, slow	Average	Good
Speed	Poor	Good	Good
Flow	Poor	Good	Good
Adjustable flow	No	One way only	Accurate
Edges (cutting in)	Poor	Good	Good
Layer thickness	Too thick	Too thin	Good
Opacity	Good	Reduced	Good
Gloss sheen level	Average	Reduced	Good
Endurance	Reduced	Poor	Good
Drying time	Longer	Normal	Normal
Paint purity	Pure	Mixed	Pure

This table illustrates the advantages and disadvantages of standard and thinned paints compared to those heated using FlowControl.

[www.go-paint.com](http://www.go-paint.com)

# GO! Paint