

The Right Paint for Hospitals

PAINT plays a major role in the interior maintenance of the modern hospital. So much so, its selection merits the most careful consideration that can be given to it. Unlike other materials and equipment, paint, once applied, is not easily disposed of should it prove unsatisfactory in service. The safest and by far the least costly procedure is to make sure that the proper paint has been chosen in the first place.

Hospital interiors are painted for reasons of sanitation, cleanliness and appearance. Sanitation and cleanliness are, of course, closely allied. In the first instance, the purpose of the paint is to provide a smooth surface on which germs and other organisms find it difficult to lodge. In the second, the purpose of the paint is to furnish a washable finish which is not only clean when new but can be kept clean over a period of time. Proper appearance, one phase of which is decoration, is essential to the well-being of patients and enhances the prestige of the institution in the community.

For a hospital superintendent, therefore, the first angle to consider in selecting a paint is its value as an aid in promoting proper standards of cleanliness and good appearance.

Another angle is economy. By economy is meant not only the gallon cost of the material but its cost on the wall as well. This involves a consideration of its coverage and the ease with which it can be spread on a surface. A paint which lacks hiding power does not go far. More of it will be required to cover a given area of surface than if a paint with good hiding power were used. Further, a paint which does not brush out easily tires and slows up the painter. He tends to coat in less surface per hour or per day. Since the cost of labor per hour or per day is the same regardless of the area covered, the cost of applying such a paint is needlessly high.

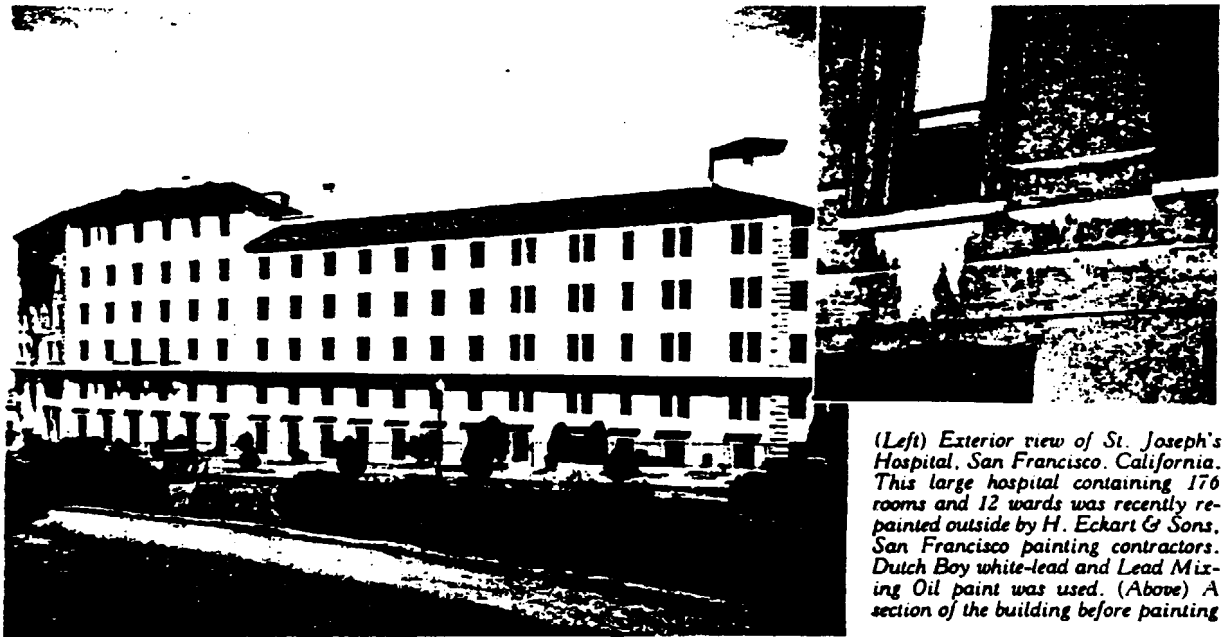
Still another phase of economy has to do with the wearing qualities of the paint. It should be obvious that the longer a paint lasts, the more economical it will be. In hospital interiors, a paint is usually considered serviceable as long as it continues to provide a washable surface which comes up to the appearance standard maintained in the particular institution. When it falls down in either respect, repainting is necessary. A paint which lengthens the interval between repaintings virtually insures low maintenance charges.

More and more throughout the country, hospital superintendents are coming to the conclusion that the paint best adapted to the maintenance requirements existing in their



Several views of the interior of the Emanuel Hospital, Portland, Ore. The entire interior of this hospital was recently painted with Dutch Boy white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil paint. Ted Mayer of Portland was the painting contractor





(Left) Exterior view of St. Joseph's Hospital, San Francisco, California. This large hospital containing 176 rooms and 12 wards was recently repainted outside by H. Eckart & Sons, San Francisco painting contractors. Dutch Boy white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil paint was used. (Above) A section of the building before painting

institutions is the one made from pure white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil, tinted as required. There are several reasons why this is so.

In the first place, white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil paint provides a type of finish highly desirable from an appearance standpoint. It has a substantial, "quality" look. It dries practically flat with a very slight sheen. Finally, it is an adaptable material from the decorative angle. Being custom-made, it is custom-tinted. The painter, from a selected group of colors in oil, can produce virtually any color or any shade of color desired.

In the second place, white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil make a paint that is truly washable—one that has the ability to *clean readily* as well as to stand up without injury. This is a highly important factor in a hospital interior where an appearance of cleanliness is very nearly as important as cleanliness itself.

In the third place, white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil paint is preferred by many hospital maintenance heads because of its real economy—whether viewed from the standpoint of first cost or cost per year of service.

As pointed out above, the economy angle in paint selection involves a consideration not only of gallon cost but also of coverage and the ease with which a material can be spread on a surface. While gallon cost is known, figures on coverage and spread are not always readily available. To show how white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil paint stacks up on this latter score, the test described in the following paragraphs was recently made.

Three flat paints were selected to compare with white-lead. The same painter applied each paint on comparable surfaces. The results, given here, show that a painter using white-lead can cover

more area in a given time. This means faster painting work and a lower cost of applying paint.

Paint Used	Area Covered Per 8 hr. day
White-lead—Lead Mixing Oil	1420 sq. ft.
Paint A	1120 sq. ft.
Paint B	1040 sq. ft.
Paint C	960 sq. ft.

In the same test, a record was kept of the covering capacity of the four paints. The results below indicate that white-lead, in addition to spreading easily, covers more surface.

Paint Used	Area Covered Per Gallon
White-lead—Lead Mixing Oil	710 sq. ft.
Paint A	560 sq. ft.
Paint B	416 sq. ft.
Paint C	384 sq. ft.

While gallon cost, coverage and spreading qualities determine the first-cost economy of paint, it is the ability to "take it" over a reasonably long period of time which determines a paint's economy in terms of years of wear.

Aside from records of actual service performance, dramatic proof of the stamina of white-lead and Lead Mixing Oil paint is offered by the fact that this same material, as shown by the photograph on this page, is also used to protect and beautify exterior surfaces of brick, stucco and concrete. There should be little room for doubt that a paint which has sufficient durability to stand up under the severe conditions encountered on the outside will wear long and satisfactorily on the inside.