

# White Lead for Many Purposes Gives Lasting Service

**E**LEVEN years ago, in the middle of a cold winter, the exterior of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Greenwich, Conn., was painted with pure white lead

paint and has not been repainted since. It is a wood building erected in 1868 and dedicated the following year. That it has not been painted in eleven years, despite the extremely adverse conditions when last painted, is a strong testimonial to the quality of both workmanship and materials. So far as can be determined, this building has always been painted with white lead, which probably partly accounts for the excellent performance of the last job, for the old white lead already on the wood offered a firm foundation for the new paint.

Another Greenwich building wherein pure white lead paint has given an excellent account of itself, but for an entirely different purpose, is the Havemeyer School. Seventeen years ago the entire interior was painted with pure white lead, mostly flat finish. It was not repainted until two years ago. This demonstrates the economy of using the best paint for interiors, for white lead can be repeatedly washed and its good appearance maintained for years, whereas cheap flat paint washes off and can not be washed clean, for dirt imbeds in its surface and the paint becomes streaky. The fifteen years of service

*Inside and Out, on Wood and Metal, White Lead Paint Performs Remarkably*

of this white lead interior is more remarkable when it is considered that it is in a school, where wear and tear on painted walls is generally great.

In Stamford, Conn., just a few miles from Greenwich, a new post office was erected in 1915. It is a brick building with a wooden cornice which is decorated with bright colors and gilt on a background of light colored paint. Pure white lead paint was



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*Havemeyer School, Greenwich, Conn., in which flat white lead paint did not require repainting for fifteen years.*

used for this work, also, when the building was built. A visual inspection made in August, 1934, nineteen years after painting, showed the paint was in such good shape as to give the impression of comparatively recent repainting, yet no repainting has been done since the original paint was applied.

White lead was put to still another use on the Greenwich Trust Co. building, where it has again proven both its versatility and durability. Metal sash was the only exterior work requiring paint. It was painted with pure white lead for all coats in 1926 and has not been repainted in the eight ensuing years. Wood sash and trim in the Greenwich Y.M.C.A. was also painted with pure white lead, in 1929, and is not yet in need of repainting.

Examples of the excellent serviceability of pure white lead paint might be continued almost indefinitely, but those cited demonstrate the variety of application to which white lead can be put and the great durability of this premier paint pigment no matter what the use. Climate in Connecticut is far from easy on paint, for temperature variations are wide, winters severe. Near the sea, salt air adds to the hardship of paint.

All of the work described here was performed by the Newton Decorative Co., of Greenwich, Conn., a



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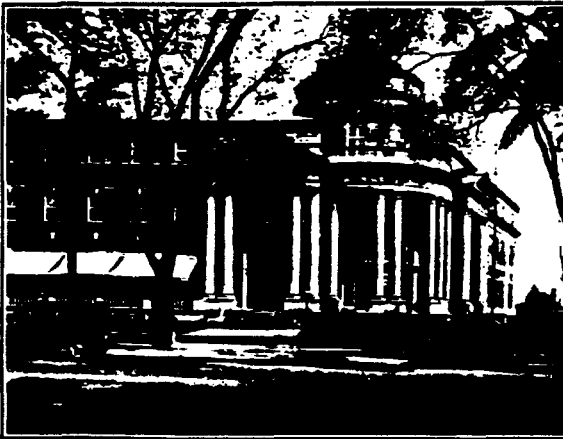
*Methodist Episcopal Church, Greenwich, Conn., last painted eleven years ago with pure white lead paint.*



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*Stamford, Conn., Post Office. White lead has endured on the wood cornice without repainting for nineteen years.*

firm which has long relied upon pure white lead paint for the bulk of its painting and decorating. The Company is now being operated by its second and third generation of Newtons and has always been known for the high quality of its work. It seems to go almost without saying that those painters and decorators who are able to continue in business year after year are those who adhere to the old sound policy of giving only good workmanship and good materials for their customers' money.



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*The wood trim of the Greenwich, Conn., Y.M.C.A., shown here, was last painted in 1929 with pure white lead.*

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Volume 1, Numbers 1, 3 and 5.

Volume 3, Numbers 2, 4, 5 and 6.

## White Lead in Window Sash Joints Best Prevents Decay

A STUDY of the prevention of decay favoring conditions in wood sash, conducted by Mr. Albert Hermann, Research Engineer of the Western Pine Association, Portland, Oregon, has revealed that moisture absorption through joints is the principal cause of trouble, and that heavy white lead paint applied to the joints is the most effective of the methods tested for preventing this undesirable absorption.

The method of testing was to construct sash corners all uniformly painted so that differences in moisture absorption would be indicative of moisture absorption differences through the joint only. These sash corners, after various treatments as indicated in the accompanying table, were stood upright in 3/16 in. of water. A saw kerf 1/32 in. deep was cut into the bottom of each joint to break the paint covering at this point. These kerfs provided the only access of moisture to the joints when immersed in the water.

Results are tabulated to show the number of days required for the test specimens to pick up 10 per cent in moisture content, the initial moisture content of all specimens being approximately 12 per cent and the final value 22 per cent.

| <i>Treatment</i>                                                                         | <i>Time Required to Increase Moisture Content 10 Per Cent</i> |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| No treatment .....                                                                       | 1/2 day                                                       |
| Dipped 10 sec. in water repellant A before assembly .....                                | 30 days                                                       |
| Dipped 10 sec. in water repellant B before assembly .....                                | 47 days                                                       |
| Dipped 10 sec. in water repellant A after assembly .....                                 | 9 1/2 days                                                    |
| Dipped 10 sec. in linseed oil after assembly .....                                       | 16 days                                                       |
| Joint surfaces brushed with aluminum paint before assembly .....                         | 17 days                                                       |
| Joint surfaces brushed with heavy white lead and linseed oil paint before assembly ..... | 69 days                                                       |
| Dipped 10 sec. in water repellant B after assembly .....                                 | 18 days                                                       |
| Dipped 20 sec. in water repellant B after assembly .....                                 | 21 1/2 days                                                   |
| Dipped 30 sec. in water repellant B after assembly .....                                 | 20 1/2 days                                                   |
| Dipped 40 sec. in water repellant B after assembly .....                                 | 12 days                                                       |

These results indicate the marked superiority of white lead for the purpose. The white lead paint used was a pure white lead paste thinned with raw linseed oil to a consistency of rich cream. A small amount of Japan drier was added. All joint surfaces were heavily coated, and the joints assembled at once so that excess lead was squeezed out but all voids in the joints filled.