



Image A: Cans with a bit of paint in them, take up precious storage space, downsizing into touch-up pots is not only practical but tidy.

Image B: Drill a 1/8" hole in the centre of the lid. **Image C:** Screw a self-tapping Robertson screw into the hole.

Image D: Make sure to note which room the paint is from, then fill it 7/8 th of the way full.

Image E: Touching-up is made easy by backing out the screw and pouring out the desired amount of paint.

POT luck

By: Loree Wallace
Photography By: edifice

You are finished painting your old house, you have followed all the rules of painting soft wood and restoring your beautiful hardwood, but a year down the road you notice chips and scratches on your architraves and skirting. After rummaging around for that gallon of paint with the half sealed lid, you puncture the thick skin that has formed over the whole of the remaining paint. Then you ask yourself, "I have a quarter can of paint left. What will happen two years from now when I need to do more touch ups because the lid will never seal again?"

Think ahead! After you have

stood back to admire your beautiful finished paint job, have the foresight to make a touch-up pot. Purchase a 250 ml paint can or two (depending on how much paint you have left) and fill the cans approximately 7/8th of the way full. (Leave a little shaking room.) With a 1/8" drill-bit drill a hole in the centre of the lid, then screw a Robertson self-tapping metal screw (oversized) into the hole, and then seal the can with the lid. Be sure to label the can to show to which room the paint belongs.

When you want to touch up your chips and scratches, give the little pot a good shake,

remove the screw and pour out a little bit of paint on to a foam or coated paper plate and touch-up to your heart's content. When you are finished, simply drive the screw back into the lid, the bit of paint around the threading will now create a seal around the screw, sealing the can permanently until you need to touch-up again. This little hint can keep the paint from drying out for up to 10 years. **e**

Loree Wallace is the co-owner of Homestead House Paint Co. of Toronto. Edifice Magazine exclusively uses their superior paint for our restoration projects and recommends the use of all of their first rate products.