



# Solvents & Thinners

## Choosing the right thinner or solvent

| Cleaning, thinning and removing   | Oil-based paint | Varnishes | Lacquers | Shellac | Polyurethanes | Oil finishes | Epoxy & fibreglass | Contact Cement | General cleaning | Degreasing |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------|---------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|------------|
| Recordsol Paint Thinner           | ✓               | ✓         |          |         | ✓             | ✓            |                    |                | ✓                | ✓          |
| Varsol* Paint Thinner             | ✓               | ✓         |          |         | ✓             | ✓            |                    |                | ✓                | ✓          |
| Mineral Spirits                   | ✓               | ✓         |          |         | ✓             | ✓            |                    |                | ✓                | ✓          |
| Brush & Roller Cleaner            | ✓               | ✓         |          |         |               | ✓            |                    |                | ✓                | ✓          |
| Lacquer Thinner                   |                 |           | ✓        |         |               |              |                    |                |                  | ✓          |
| Methyl Hydrate                    |                 |           |          | ✓       |               |              |                    |                | ✓                | ✓          |
| Acetone                           |                 |           |          |         |               |              | ✓                  |                |                  | ✓          |
| Heirloom® MAX Heavy Duty Stripper | ✓               | ✓         | ✓        | ✓       | ✓             | ✓            |                    |                |                  |            |
| Bio-Option™ Pure Turpentine       | ✓               | ✓         |          |         |               |              |                    |                |                  |            |
| Contact Cement Cleaner            |                 |           |          |         |               |              |                    | ✓              | ✓                |            |

## Thinner or solvent – know what to look for

What's the difference between a thinner and a solvent? Not much. The thinning capacity of a product refers to its affect on the consistency of the paint or lacquer with which it's mixed. Solvency refers to the capacity of a substance to break down the resins and binding agents in paint and lacquer. This affects consistency and drying time. The faster a solvent leaves the paint (by evaporating), the faster the resins and binders will act to seal and dry the paint.

**Evaporation** is the most important factor to consider when choosing your solvent. If it evaporates too quickly, the surface of the paint may wrinkle or a haze may form. If it evaporates too slowly, the paint could seal with the solvent trapped underneath, creating bubbles and blisters.

**Disposal of solvents and thinners:** Most paint thinners and solvents can be reused. Let used thinner sit in a closed container until the paint particles settle to the bottom and then pour out the clear liquid at the top for reuse. Always label containers with product name and first aid instructions. Add an absorbent, like cat litter, to the remaining residue and let it dry completely.

Contact local refuse collection service, waste management program or environmental control agency for guidance on disposal.



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## THINNER AND SOLVENT SELECTION GUIDE:

| Product Name          | <br><b>Recordsol Paint Thinner</b>  | <br><b>Varsol* Paint Thinner</b>  | <br><b>Mineral Spirits</b>  | <br><b>Brush &amp; Roller Cleaner</b>   | <br><b>Lacquer Thinner</b>  | <br><b>Methyl Hydrate</b>   | <br><b>Acetone</b>   | <br><b>Heirloom® MAX Heavy Duty Stripper</b>   | <br><b>Bio-Option™ Pure Turpentine</b>   |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|---|--|--|---|---|---|
| Description           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economical substitute for turpentine</li> <li>Improves flow, penetration and levelling of paints and varnishes</li> <li>Moderate evaporation rate; ideal for oil-based coatings</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Premium quality, pure paint thinner</li> <li>Well known for its consistent quality</li> <li>Medium to fast evaporation rate</li> <li>Moderate odour with low flammability; ideal for in-door use</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Versatile thinner without a strong odour</li> <li>Similar uses to regular Paint Thinner</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-corrosive formula; ideal for cleaning of painting tools</li> <li>Penetrating solvent that makes cleaning easy</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blend of solvents combined to provide fast drying time and high solvency</li> <li>Creates a smooth, high gloss finish</li> <li>Fast evaporation rate due to the combination of solvents, all of which are highly flammable. (Store and handle with care)</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-purpose thinner used primarily for thinning shellac</li> <li>Not suitable for oil based products or stains</li> <li>Highly flammable; handle with care</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>One of the strongest and fastest evaporating of all solvents</li> <li>Not suitable for oil based paints</li> <li>Highly flammable; handle with care</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thick gel-like formula that will cling to vertical surfaces</li> <li>Thin enough to penetrate intricate carvings</li> <li>Non-flammable mixture that will lift 5 layers or more of paint, but will not harm the wood</li> <li>Fast acting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Natural source - tree resin</li> <li>Thinner and cleaner for oil-based paints</li> <li>Protects natural bristle brushes</li> <li>Its slow evaporation rate creates a gradual drying time for a smooth finish</li> </ul>  |
| Suggested Uses        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Good for cleaning up after painting</li> <li>Cleaning grease from tools, garage and basement floors</li> <li>All purpose solvent for thinning oil-based paints and coatings</li> <li>Removing grease, tar and wax from ceramic tile and linoleum</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best for cleaning brushes and rollers</li> <li>For degreasing automotive and workshop tools</li> <li>Spot-cleaning floors, ceramic tiles and concrete surfaces</li> <li>Thinning oil-based paints, varnishes and polyurethanes</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better for thinning oil-based coatings</li> <li>Use as an all purpose household cleaner</li> <li>Interchangeable with turpentine</li> <li>Removes grease from various surfaces</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best for removing paint &amp; varnish from painting tools</li> <li>Degreasing painting tools used for oil-based paints when still wet</li> <li>Cleaning surfaces with build-up of fresh paint splatters, grease, dirt</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best for thinning lacquer-based and automotive paints to spraying consistency</li> <li>For cleaning and flushing spray equipment</li> <li>Lower priced thinners are usually meant for uses like cleaning tools. Higher priced thinners are specially blended for fine lacquers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best for preventing gas line freezing</li> <li>Cleaning glass surfaces when mixed with water</li> <li>Thinning shellac and cleaning brushes</li> <li>Dissolving resins, gums and celluloid</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thinning fiberglass resin and removing adhesives</li> <li>Dissolving two-part epoxies</li> <li>Cleaning tools used for epoxies and lacquers. Also for inks, adhesives, contact cement and vinyl-coated boat lines</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best for removing all finishes, glue and adhesive from wood, metal and masonry</li> <li>Do not allow contact with fabrics, floors, plastic, vinyl or rubber tiles, linoleum or asphalt</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best for thinning wood stains; when combined with linseed oil, it produces a "French Finish" on fine furniture</li> <li>Thinner for special art finishes and artists' oil-based paints, varnishes and enamels</li> </ul> |
| Product Applications: |  Household  |  Automotive   |  Furniture  |  Tools   |  |  |   |   |   |

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