

# Guidance for removing Peelaway residue.

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN



*The Original Poultice Paint Removal System*

Restoring previously painted surfaces can be a difficult and time consuming process, particularly where intricate shapes or pitted brickwork are present. This document contains guidance for removal of Peelaway in difficult areas, or when the Peelaway has accidentally been allowed to dry out. Both Peelaway 1 and Peelaway 7 should stay damp throughout the stripping process and are not intended to dry out. The purpose of the test patch is to determine which Peelaway product is most suitable for any particular project, and to find out the best thickness and length of time for application of the poultice, before it dries out. However, if this unfortunately does occur, it is reversible.



### Removing Difficult Peelaway Residue

First of all, the areas where the Peelaway is softest should be removed, to avoid them drying out further whilst tackling the more difficult areas. If the poultice is still soft enough to push a spatula into, the advice below for 'Removing Soft Peelaway' will be applicable. If not, then the section on 'Removing Dried Peelaway' is most appropriate. For any areas where the Peelaway or paint breakdown product has run onto the floor, using warm soapy water and a sponge should be sufficient, as this should be water soluble.

### Removing Soft Poultice

Only remove a manageable section of blanket and poultice at a time, then clean back to a bare surface before proceeding to the next area. This avoids the poultice drying in other areas before removal.

Before removing the Peelaway blanket, first ease a spatula underneath the poultice, as close to the surface as possible. Following this, use the spatula to push a path through the poultice whilst gently lifting the blanket.

Once the bulk of the poultice and blanket have been removed, take a stiff bristled brush (e.g. washing up brush or broom) and a bucket of warm water, and dip the brush into the water, then use the damp brush to loosen residue from the crevices.

Rinse the brush in the bucket as needed and repeat until the bulk of the poultice has been removed. A towel or absorbent pad on the floor can help to catch any drips.

For smaller areas, a toothbrush sized brush can work well. Finally, wipe down with clean water and a sponge, and allow to dry. Please note – some surfaces such as plaster can be sensitive to moisture so should not be soaked.

### Removing Dried Poultice

The dried poultice will soften when enough moisture returns to it, but it will only absorb moisture slowly.

To rehydrate the poultice, there are two options:

- Reapply another coat of Peelaway on top, then cover with the blanket again for several hours
- Spray/sponge the residue with warm water, then cover with the blanket for 5 minutes. Repeat until rehydrated.

Once the poultice has softened enough to ease a spatula in, follow the instructions for soft poultice.

**Once all Peelaway residue has been removed:** Wash down the surface, as per the instructions on the Peelaway label.

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We would suggest collecting and packaging stripping waste upright in sealed metal or plastic containers immediately after removal, then disposing of all containers as hazardous waste. For individuals, this will be via local authority services and for businesses, an appropriate route should be identified for the volumes involved. The SDS lists the hazardous components.

Depending on the chemical composition of the paint and amount of dilution when rinsing, the water used to clean up the substrate following removal of Peelaway products may be considered as hazardous waste. This will include where lead paint is present. In this case, measures should be taken to capture the rinse water and dispose of it appropriately via hazardous waste disposal. This may include capturing run-off using waterproof sheeting and absorbent material/towels, depending on the volume of water.



### **For Peelaway 1 only**

Once the surface has dried follow the instructions on the label for the Peelaway Neutraliser.

Further information can be found on the Peelaway website here: <https://peelaway.co.uk/167/faqs>