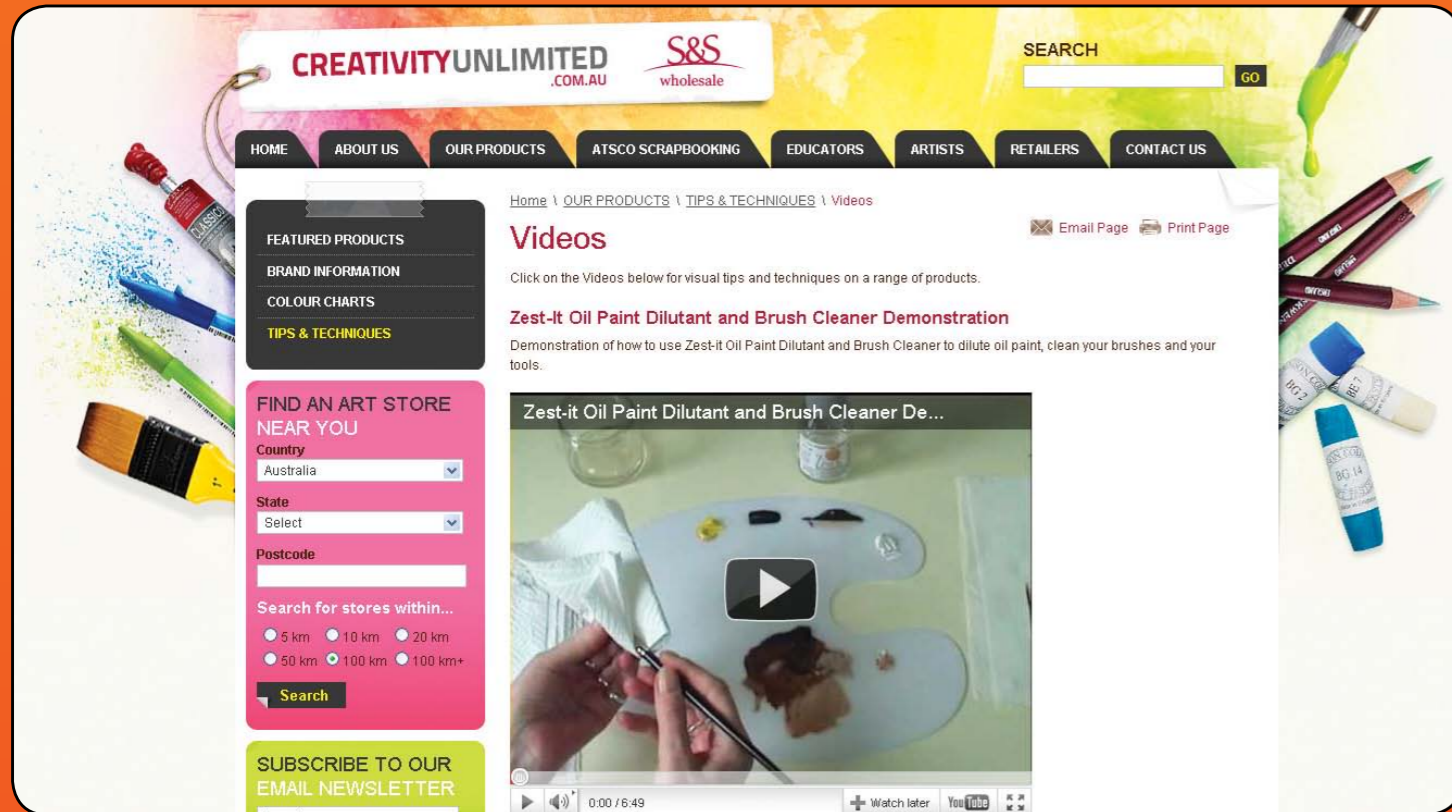


Tips and techniques videos using Zest-it products are available to view on our website.



ZEST-IT®

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ABOUT ZEST IT

Zest-it is an environmentally friendly, non-flammable, non-toxic and biodegradable alternative to commonly used solvents in oil painting – turpentine and white spirit. Zest-it is a natural solvent made from the zest of citrus fruit with a neutral pH and containing no CFC's or aromatics. It is ideal for a multitude of use; from cleaning brushes, varnishing finished artworks and thinning paint to removing adhesives and blending coloured pencils and pastels.

Most solvents used with traditional oil colours are an irritant, toxic or highly flammable and often all three. They evaporate very quickly and fill the air with harmful and toxic chemicals, usually accompanied by a nauseating smell. Even 'odourless' solvents still give off fumes – they just cannot be seen or smelt, yet still fill the air with harmful chemicals.

Zest-it is a 'studio safe' solvent. It has a very low evaporative loss meaning there are few fumes released into the surrounding air and thus ideal for small studio's or home use. The active strength of Zest-it is longer lasting than turpentine or white spirit and independent laboratory tests have shown it has proven stability and a long shelf life and no detrimental effect oil paint or pigment quality.

Zest-it is perfect for use in the classroom or anywhere where the use of harmful solvents has been restricted and for anyone who has given up using oil colours for health reasons. Zest-it has been thoroughly tested to today's industry standards and does not give off hazardous vapours or fumes.

PAINTING WITH ZEST IT

Zest-it is an effective replacement for many of the chemically based solvents used in the paint studio.

Brush Cleaning – If your brushes are kept clean, especially at the ferrule end, they will perform much better and last much longer. Zest-it easily removes oil paint from all your brushes, whether Sable, Bristle or Synthetic. Turpentine and white spirit are known 'leech out' the natural oils present in bristle and hair brushes, causing them to go brittle and break over time. The citrus oils contained within Zest-it help maintain the oil content and integrity of the brush giving it a much longer life. When finished painting, remove as much excess paint from the brush as possible. Wash the brush in Zest-it Brush Cleaner to remove all paint from the bristles. Ensure that the Zest-it penetrates right up to the ferrule end to remove any paint left here. It is recommended a brush screen (such as the Richeson Brush Basin and Screen) is used when cleaning your brushes. For brushes that have oil paint dried in the bristles soak the brush in Zest-it. Zest-it is a non-aggressive cleaner so it is best to leave them soaking for a while – your patience will be rewarded! After a good soak, work the Zest-it into the bristles and pull back and forth to loosen the dried paint. Rinse in Zest-it and repeat. Dry the brush but do not wash with water. Leave for a few days and repeat the process. The Zest-it Brush Cleaner can be re-used. Allow the used Zest-it to stand overnight. Any sediment will sink to the bottom. Decant off the clear liquid and store safely. The decanted liquid can be re-used for further brush cleaning. Zest-it Brush Cleaner has a long active life and can be used many times to clean your brushes.

Diluting Oil Paints – Zest-it can be used as a dilutant to thin oil paint for applying as a coloured ground to canvas and for painting fine detail, even as thin as ink.



Blending Sponge – The Blending Sponge is an easy, clean and convenient way of using Zest-it to moisten paper stumps, tortillions or shapers. Ideal for blending colours onto parchment, paper and vellum. It comes pre-loaded and ready to use with 15ml of Zest-it pencil blend and can be recharged indefinitely with more Zest-it pencil blend.



CLEANING WITH ZEST IT

Artists Hand Cleaner – This hand cleaner is hand-made from soap suitable for sensitive skin combined with orange peel powder, Shea butter and essential oils. It will gently, but thoroughly remove oil paint, pastel, varnish and acrylic from hands without any harsh, abrasive or drying effects, leaving them supple and conditioned. Only a small amount is usually needed. Simply rub well into your hands, add a few drops of water to create a lather, work the lather, rinse and dry.



Zest-it Artists Adhesive Remover - This product is excellent for the removal of a whole range of adhesives. It will remove glue dots, masking fluid, hinging tape and as a reversal fluid. Zest-it is a non-aggressive solvent so patience is always rewarded. It can be difficult to remove hinging and similar tape from art work without the help of a solvent to soften and dissolve the adhesive. Without solvent help there is a risk of damage to the art work or the mount-board or backing to which it is attached. Zest-it Artists Adhesive Remover has undergone testing by members of the Fine Art Trade Guild and has been used for many years by Framers and Conservators. The Adhesive Remover is non-toxic and non-flammable with a pH of 7-8 making it ideal for this application. To remove the tape take a soft long filament brush and use this to apply a small amount of Zest-it to the edges of the tape. Leave for about 2 minutes. As the brush is moved it will slide between the tape and the surface and the Zest-it will release the tape. Apply as necessary until the tape can be fully removed. Allow the surface to dry completely (24/36 hours) before attaching any new tape to the area. Glue Dots can be difficult to remove. Zest-it Artists Adhesive Remover will do the job cleanly and efficiently. It is non-flammable, non-toxic and almost pH neutral. It works for glue dots, micro dots, sticky pads, foam pads and self-adhesive Velcro type tapes and pads. To remove the dots, take a soft brush or cotton bud and apply the Adhesive Remover to the surface and around the dot. It also helps to prick the surface of the dot with a pin as this allows the remover to penetrate the dot more thoroughly and speeds removal. Leave the Adhesive Remover on the dot for 2 minutes. Then use a spatula or similar to lift the edges of the dot. Use the wet bud to apply a little more (tweezers are useful at this point), hold the dot and slide the brush between the dot and the surface. Ease the dot from the surface and discard. Allow to dry thoroughly. When cleaning brushes 'stiff' with masking fluid, soak the brush in a small amount of Zest-it for about fifteen minutes until it feels soft and 'goeey' to the touch. Gently roll the filaments between your fingers to loosen the masking fluid. Remove the masking fluid with kitchen towel and then wash the brush in Zest-it. Repeat as necessary. When all masking fluid has been removed, wash the brush and your hands in soap and water until clean.

