

To safeguard the quality of its premium paint Farrow & Ball doubles productivity by optimizing its paint production line with automatic self-cleaning filters

This leading manufacturer of water-based paints installs two Self-Cleaning Russell Eco Filter® units to qualify its paints after the final stage of production

Farrow & Ball, based in Dorset, UK, is a manufacturer of the traditional paints and wallpaper established in 1946. For more than 70 years the company has continually grown with over 300 staff on-site and over 600 employees globally, selling through worldwide stockist networks such as B&Q, Homebase and many reputable D.I.Y stores.

The master-minds at Farrow & Ball have created 132 distinctive eco-friendly water-based finishes and many artisanal and unique wallpaper designs. Serving customers from its flagship showroom on Fulham Road in Chelsea, London, as well as showrooms in Toronto, New York and Paris, its paint quality is held in the highest esteem worldwide. With the continual growth of the company, Farrow & Ball turned to Russell Finex for a solution that could easily fit into their existing operation ensuring the quality of the product whilst coping with increased demand.




Producing premium paint at Farrow & Ball is a precise and meticulous process involving many steps that work together to create a high-quality paint. A mill base is formed by delicately hand-feeding powders and pigments, such as high-grade titanium dioxide, into the highest quality binders, to dictate the finish of the water-based paints. Once this process is complete the batch is then checked by the Quality Control department, testing for strength, sheen, opacity and undispersed particles.

The testing process is imperative to guaranteeing the quality of the paint. Up to 30% more pigment is added in comparison to paint supplied by other paint manufacturers, which can result in a higher level of undispersed pigments forming in the mixture. Previously to eliminate this risk a longer mixing time was required to ensure pigments were fully dispersed, which could take up to two days per individual batch.

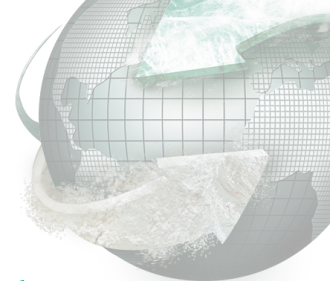
After an extensive consultation with a Russell Finex experienced sales engineer, an on-site trial with the Self-Cleaning Russell Eco Filter® was conducted. Following successful results two Self-Cleaning Russell Eco Filter® units were installed, instantly improving the quality-assurance process by reducing the time taken for each batch to be



Figure 1. The Self-Cleaning Russell Eco Filter® is installed at Farrow & Ball to remove undispersed pigments of powder from paint.

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Ensures product quality – Eliminates the risk of contamination and removes unwanted materials, protecting the quality of the final product
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Reduces operator involvement – A fully enclosed design ensures that operators health and safety is protected at all times
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Increases productivity – Its unique SpiroKlene™ system provides constant filtration with no stoppages or maintenance associated with filter bags

signed off for packaging to 45 minutes, 100% faster than the previous process. Simon Downey, Production Manager at Farrow & Ball stated, "Eliminating any risk of having bits or contamination in the paint is imperative, and we have gone the extra step to make sure we have the best product for all of our customers. Our renowned quality is



what distinguishes our brand against competitors, so to risk our quality assurance process is to risk our reputation.”

The Self-Cleaning Russell Eco Filter® reduced the testing process time needed to qualify the paint. These in-line filters replace the need for filter bags and cartridges due to its unique SpiroKlene™ system, which allows higher production rates as there are no stoppages to change filter bags and cartridges. The filters are easy to strip down, clean and re-assemble in between colour batch changes, meaning minimal disruption during product changeovers. Mr Downey continues, “The self-cleaning filters were easily introduced into our existing processing line. They work perfectly at all times, with minimal involvement from the team, and have significantly cut processing times.”

With 85 years of experience, Russell Finex provides separation technology to a **variety of industries** including food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, chemicals, coatings, ceramics, metal powders, water processing and recycling. Russell Finex has a range of sieving and filtration solutions to meet the custom and bespoke needs of the coatings industry, including increasing capacity whilst decreasing production downtime and labour.



Figure 2. Farrow & Ball uses the Self-Cleaning Russell Eco Filter® to quality control liquid paint before packaging.