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MID-MARCH 2008 | VOL. 106 | NO. 5

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# Renew old paint

Better than a new paint job, this cleaner revives surfaces

By Dave Mowitz, Machinery Editor

**T**he skyrocketing values of used equipment and the selling power of good original paint (over a new paint job) has farmers reaching for the rubbing compound or wax to give tractors and combines a new shine before sale. But professional painter and sandblaster Jim Deardorff has a cheaper and easier alternative he recommends for use on equipment year-round.

Deardorff has been working with a microemulsion cleaner called Kleen Kote. When sprayed on paint, the solution seeps into the tiny cracks and pores that exist on any paint job and fills them. "These openings, which can exist even on new paint jobs, create one of the most common ways moisture and contaminants get under paint," Deardorff explains. "Two major causes of paint failure are the salts from roads and the sulfates from diesel exhaust. But using detergents to remove these contaminants is aggressive and can harm paint."

## DISPLACES DIRT AND GRIME

When sprayed on paint, cleaners like Kleen Kote displace dirt and grime in paint cracks and pores. "It literally moves, or migrates, through dust to saturate the paint. It then dries to a virtually nonstick surface," Deardorff says.

Kleen Kote is not a permanent coating, however. It can be removed if washed with a detergent. "But you're OK if you wash the surface with clean water," he explains. "Any



above, top: Jim Deardorff, a professional painter and sandblaster, has had good results with a microemulsion cleaner called Kleen Kote.

above, bottom: Kleen Kote will seep into cracks and pores and displace dirt and grime.

right: Deardorff sprays on a mixture that is one part Kleen Kote cleaner to 12 to 15 parts water.

dust, dirt, or grime will rinse off the surface, and the paint will dry shiny."

A 1-gallon bottle of Kleen Kote sells for \$36 (it's also offered in 5- and 55-gallon containers). When diluted, the applied cost drops to \$3

or less per gallon. Order Kleen Kote online at [www.4progressive.com](http://www.4progressive.com).

Contact Deardorff with questions about painting and sandblasting farm equipment by phone (660/646-6355) or by e-mail ([jdeardorffsupct@yahoo.com](mailto:jdeardorffsupct@yahoo.com)). ■



Photographs: Doug Hetherington