



Contact: Natalie Danaher
Ace Hardware Corp.
630/990-6923
nhils@acehardware.com

**ACE SENSATIONS™ WITH SCOTCHGARD™ PROTECTOR PAINT RECOGNIZED
BY *HOME MAGAZINE* WITH AMERICAN BUILDING PRODUCT AWARD**

OAK BROOK, Ill., December 21, 2005 – Ace Paint’s latest innovation, Ace Sensations™ with Scotchgard™ Protector, has received an American Building Products Award from *Home Magazine*. The award will be presented at the 10th annual awards reception at the International Builder’s Show on Jan. 11.

Each year, the magazine honors groundbreaking products based on their innovation, durability, convenience, safety, efficiency and style. Ace Sensations – the first premium acrylic latex flat paint with Scotchgard Protector – was one of nine products recognized this year, and is featured in *Home Magazine*’s January/February 2006 issue, currently on newsstands.

“The Ace Hardware team is honored that Ace Sensations has earned *Home Magazine*’s most prestigious award of the year,” said Dick Bristol, director, Ace Paint Division. “This innovative product provides an easy solution to the common household problem of paint that’s stained as a result of coffee and grape juice spills, pencil marks and even tough, oily spots like greasy fingerprints.

“We share this award equally with our partner 3M, the manufacturer of the Scotchgard brand product already used so successfully at maintaining the appearance of materials such as fabrics and floor coverings.”

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AMERICAN BUILDING PRODUCTS AWARD FOR ACE SENSATIONS – ADD ONE

According to national home improvement expert and Ace's "Helpful Hardware Man" Lou Manfredini, on walls painted with Ace Sensations, household dirt and grime wash off easily with soap and water or an all-purpose cleaner.

"Whether you're designing for, building or currently living in a home, this paint is an ideal choice," said Manfredini. "In addition to the Scotchgard Protector, this paint contains a mildewcide, so it's safe to use in high moisture areas like kitchens and bathrooms."

Ace Sensations can be custom mixed to an almost unlimited number of colors. It is available exclusively at participating Ace Hardware stores for approximately \$26.99 a gallon. The paint is also available in 5-gallon contractor size and quart containers.

Home Magazine and the American Building Product Awards

Home Magazine is the established authority for renovation and decorating enthusiasts, providing 4.5 million readers with a solid foundation of knowledge about products and price points that empowers them to make informed purchasing decisions. *Home Magazine's* American Building Product Award products are selected after comprehensive and stringent judging on key criteria including innovation, durability, convenience, safety, efficiency and style. The other nine award winners include the following: Dual Fuel Convection Range with Steam Assist by KitchenAid; 72-inch Three Door Multi Zone Refrigeration Cabinet by Perlick; Samsung Quatro Freedom refrigerator by Samsung Electronics; DensArmor Plus Paperless Interior Wall Board Panels by Georgia Pacific; Bourgoise roofing tiles by Millennium Tiles; Engineered stone countertop surface with Microban from Silestone by Cosentino; Merlot, Java and Sambuca stains for engineered flooring by Mirage Hardwood Floors; WaterTile shower

AMERICAN BUILDING PRODUCTS AWARD FOR ACE SENSATIONS – ADD TWO

fixtures by Kohler and the Paloma Freestanding Gas Fireplace by Heat & Glo.

Ace Hardware

Founded in 1924, Ace Hardware Corp. is headquartered in Oak Brook, Ill., and is the largest retailer-owned cooperative in the industry, with annual retail sales from its 4,700 hardware, home center and lumber and building materials retailers topping \$13 billion. Ace currently operates 15 distribution centers in the United States and has stores located in all 50 states and 70 countries. More information on Ace can be found at www.acehardware.com.

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