

Local company cuts the mess out of painting

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OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Two Canton men, friends since middle school, say they've come up with an answer to the age-old question of painters everywhere: "Where's the stick?"

The two, Breck Waggoner and Dave Stott, are founders of the Better Way Tool Company and have released their first product, the Lid/Stir.

The product attaches to any one-gallon paint can and stirs the paint when hooked up to a drill or kitchen mixer. After 15 seconds, the paint is mixed and can be poured from the Lid/Stir's drip-free spout.

The system, which is designed to be used on one can until it's empty, can be reused.

"I've used it in my own house and the time savings is great,"

A BETTER WAY TOOL COMPANY

Owners: Dave Stott and Breck Waggoner, both of Canton

Mission: Lead the world to a better way and ultimately to a better life.

First product: The Lid/Stir, a storable, stackable paint mixing and pouring system

Web site: www.lidstir.com

said Waggoner, a stay-at-home father of three. "You can stir your paint without having to (continuously) pry off the lid."

Waggoner, 42, and Stott, 40, a manufacturing representative, came up with the idea for their invention a couple years ago as they tackled a window-painting

project at Waggoner's home.

While the two had an initial goal of simplifying the paint mixing process, the mess-free aspect of the Lid/Stir's spout was an added bonus, Stott said, pointing out that those who use their product will never have to deal with paint crust gathering the can's rim.

"The drip-free spout was an added benefit to what we wanted to do," said Stott, a father of two.

While Waggoner, who is called "the brush," thought the Lid/Stir was a gem immediately, Stott, who is known as "the can," said he believed in it but wasn't sure others would. Those doubts were settled, he said, after 90 percent of the Handyman Club of America's 400 members gave the device their stamp of approval.

"That was convincing enough

for me," Stott said.

In addition to the Handyman Club, Stott joked that his wife, Kelly, has created her own test market and has given the product away to many of their friends.

"Everyone that has tried it, loves it," he said.

Waggoner, who said Kelly and his wife, Regina, have been supportive of their efforts, said it feels good to have people enjoy their creation. The two also have more inventions they want to release, he said.

"The business is fine, but our friendship is the top priority," Stott said. "We are focused on maintaining our friendship."

The Lid/Stir, which is manufactured in Plymouth, retails for \$12.99 and is available at Sears Hardware Stores and at www.lidstir.com.



Inventors Dave Stott and Breck Waggoner show off their new product — a combination paint stirring paddle and can lid.

BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER