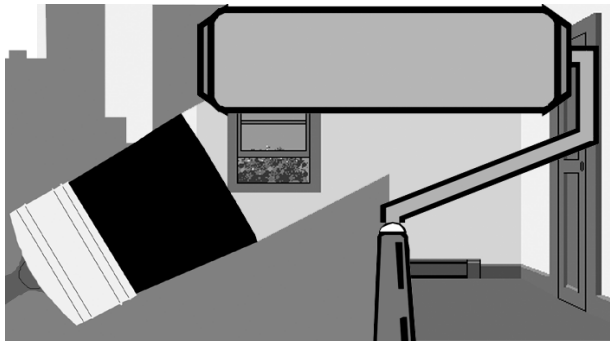


Project Ideas & Information

Interior Painting



Before purchasing tools, timber and materials, read every step thoroughly then talk to one of our experts

No other project you do around your home so completely changes the appearance and mood of a room for less time, effort or money than painting.

Step 1 : Before You Start

The biggest problem that home decorators have is colour matching. What you see on the colour chip in the paint department generally doesn't match the colour you end up with on your walls. There could be several reasons for this.

Colour changes over large areas, where more of the colour is concentrated in the one space, as opposed to the effect of colour on a 50x30mm card. Colour can appear up to three times darker on a wall than on a paint chip.

The reflection of light can dramatically change colours, whether the light be environmental or from light fittings, to the influence of floor finishes and furnishings.

The simple solution is colour samplers. You can buy these in pots ranging from 250-500ml which will allow you to cover up to one wall. As opposed to painting onto the wall, consider painting a large sheet of white cardboard or plasterboard, which will allow you to move it around a room to take advantage of the effect of different light sources, shadowing etc. Also watch the colour throughout the full day, colours can look vastly different from day to night.

Another point to keep in mind is that if you have several cans of the same colour paint, and the colour in one differs by even the slightest degree (and this can happen), the difference will show up on your walls. To avoid this, pour all the paint into a 20 litre mixing bucket, stir it, and then return it to the original cans. This is known as "boxing".

Step 2 : Choosing Materials

Once you've assessed your situation you can make a list of the materials you will be using. Apart from the obligatory, drop sheets, sandpaper, filling compounds, masking tape and scrapers, for most jobs, the following should suffice:

A 50mm angular brush for woodwork and windows and a 50mm trim brush for areas, like edges, that need extra control. Brushes use either natural or synthetic bristles, or a blend. Natural bristles work only with oil based paints; synthetic bristles work with both oil based and water base.

A roller frame and cover with extension pole. Choose one with a steel frame, a metal cage, and a threaded handle that can hold an extension pole. When selecting a cover, choose a shorter nap (5mm or 10mm) for painting smooth indoor surfaces, and longer nap (20mm or 32mm) for rougher surfaces including textured walls, masonry and stucco.

A paint edger with guide wheels (a great alternative to masking).

And of course, don't forget the paint. For flat areas like ceilings, walls and doors, just multiply their length by their height, subtracting such areas as windows and doors, this gives you the area your paint will have to cover. Most paints cover 16 square metres per litre, so it's simple multiplication. Don't forget that you will generally need two coats for the best finish.

Step 3 : Surface Preparation

Surface preparation is critical if you want a quality paint job. Preparation of your walls and ceilings before painting will often encompass more labour and time than the actual painting. In fact up to 75% of the work is preparation.

Give yourself plenty of room to work by removing as much as possible from the room. Group the larger items such as the lounge in the centre of the room and cover them with drop cloths.

Remove all curtains, pictures and hanging items from the walls and ceiling. Store all the hangers in a jar for use later.

Lay out drop sheets to protect the floor. Light weight plastic ones are fine and are cheap enough to roll up and throw away after the job is completed.

Washing down walls, ceiling and trims is recommended even if they appear clean. Use an appropriate cleaner such as Sugar Soap or Tricleanium ... don't be tempted to use dishwashing liquids as these often leave a film over the surface that may compromise the new paint bond. Any mildew stains can be treated with a 1:3 bleach/water solution, but you should investigate and cure the cause so that it does not re-occur.

Once everything has been washed and dried, inspect all surfaces for flaws that are likely to affect the final appearance of your painting efforts.

Gaps at joins or in corners are usually caused by movement or shrinkage which may recur and should be filled with a paintable flexible gap filler. These are usually applied with a caulking gun, or for smaller jobs, from a tube. Hairline cracks should be filled with an interior flexible filler either powdered or ready to use.

Small holes can be filled using an appropriate filler applied with a scraper. Larger holes should be filled in stages, allowing each stage to dry before repeating. In both cases slightly overfill the hole so that when you sand off, the surface will be level. Apply an appropriate primer/sealer to the repaired surface.

Peeling or flaking paint should be removed and the edges feathered. Apply an appropriate primer/sealer to the affected surface. Investigate and rectify the cause so it does not re-occur.

The cause of any water marks should be investigated and any remedial action taken. Old water marks should be coated with two coats of a stain blocking primer before applying the final top coats.

Runs, sags and heavy brush marks that are evident from previous painted jobs can be sanded smooth, but care should be taken so as not to damage the underlying surface. Any resulting bare patches should be coated with an appropriate undercoat before applying the final top coats.

Chipped corners and dents in wood work should be filled with a hard filler to prevent repeat damage in the future.

Makeup, permanent marker and crayon marks are difficult to paint over and will usually work their way to the surface of your new paint job. Treat these and other stains including smoke damage by applying two coats of a stain blocking primer before painting.

If you are repainting woodwork that has been previously been painted with a gloss paint, dull the surfaces by sanding down with fine sandpaper, this will provide a key for the new paint. Alternatively use a product such as ESP that cleans the surface and leaves a fine bonding film at the same time.

Once all the repair work has been completed give the room another good clean to remove all the sanding dust and apply painter's masking tape to any surfaces or edges you want to protect. Then it's on to the good part ... the painting.

Step 4 : Painting

To avoid splashing already painted surfaces it's generally best to paint the ceiling and cornices first, followed by the walls and then the woodwork and trim. On large areas it's easier to see what you have painted by working away from the light source

Ceilings

Painting the ceiling is probably the most difficult part of the painting process, not only because of the strain of working overhead but also that you will most probably be working off a ladder for at least part of the time. Reduce ladder time by using an extension pole fitted to your roller. Wear a hat and goggles to protect yourself from paint spatter.

Start at the side of the room closest to the light source and cut in a 50mm wide strip with a brush around the edges of the ceiling, if the cornices are going to be the same colour as the ceiling, paint them as you go. Now use your roller to lay down the first of a series of about 1 metre wide parallel strips until you meet the other wall. Allow the paint to dry and recoat if necessary.

Cornices

If you are painting cornices separately paint the ceiling, let it dry and then cut in the edges of the cornice first and complete by filling in the middle section.

Walls

Painting walls is the easiest part and perhaps the most enjoyable part of the painting process ... you get a lot done in a short amount of time.

Start in a corner closest to your light source and work in blocks of about 1 metre square from top to bottom, cutting in with a brush or edging pad as you go. On large walls two people, one cutting and one rolling, will make the job quicker and less tiresome.

For the smoothest result when rolling, load the roller and apply the paint in a large M shape and then fill in by rolling across the M.

Wood work

If you'll be using the same paint on the woodwork and walls, paint the woodwork as you come to it. If it's another colour or a higher gloss, wait until the walls are done

Architraves And Skirting Boards

Use a trim guide to keep paint off surrounding walls and floors and wipe it off as you go to avoid smudging. Paint the top edge of skirting boards first, then the bottom along the floor and the middle section last.

Windows

Masking windows before painting is tedious, but not as tedious as scraping paint of the glass afterwards. Use painter's masking tape that is easily removable after being in place for 2-3 days.

Paint double-hung windows starting with the wood between the panes, then work outward. On casement windows, use the same technique, but keep the windows open slightly until the paint dries.

Doors

Flat or flush doors can be painted in much the same way as a wall, either with a brush or roller. For panel doors, paint the decorative moulded edges first, next paint the individual panels working from the centre out. Finally paint the flat vertical and horizontal panels.

Step 5 : Cleaning Up

No one likes cleaning up, but if you don't you will ruin your rollers and brushes. There are several roller cleaners on the market and the best type are those that spin the roller ... choose the type that uses the least amount of water for the best result.

Don't wash brushes, rollers and trays by flushing them under running water that ends up in either the sewer, stormwater network or natural waterways.

Painting Hints

- Lead is very dangerous to your health and you should not use, sand or scrape suspect paint until you get specialist advice. If the house or building was built before 1970 you should assume lead paint is present
- Always provide adequate ventilation when painting.
- Keep containers closed when not using them.
- Keep paint products out of the reach of children.
- Follow label instructions for use and storage.

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