

Paint Like A Pro

With warmer temperatures on the way, now is the perfect time to open the windows for interior painting or get outside to start the exterior paint projects you've been dreaming about all winter.

By Ron Specht

Whether you are planning to refresh the outside of your home or clean and brighten the inside, here are a few tips to successfully complete your paint project.

Before you dash off to buy your paint, use the time saving checklist below to make sure you are prepared. Knowing exactly what you will need will help you save time and money.



Paint Color

Choosing a paint color is an important first step in the painting process. Before you visit your local home improvement store to purchase your paint, take some time to do a little research. Look through magazines or home decorating books to find colors that you like. If you are painting inside, walk through your house and pay special attention to the natural light in each room. Lighter colors tend to make a room look brighter and sometimes larger. Darker colors can be used to create a cozy atmosphere. Keep in mind that paint colors can be made to match a fabric or furniture swatch.



Paint Type

If you are painting inside or outside, it is important to understand the benefit of selecting the right paint sheen. Typically, the flat/matte sheen is used on interior walls, and flat and satin finishes are used on exterior surfaces. However, if you plan to paint trim work, high-humidity or high traffic areas, you will need a more washable sheen.

Sheen

Oil and latex base paints are available in 5 sheens. The sheen of a paint is the amount of light reflected from its surface. Flat paints "absorb" light while gloss paints reflect light.

Although Wall and Trim paints can be used to paint any interior surface, the chart below highlights the recommended surface and room use for each sheen.



Flat/Matte

Smooth, subtle, elegant finish
Hides surface imperfections
Ideal for low traffic areas
Recommended Use: Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom



Eggshell/Low-Lustre/Satin

Smooth with added washability
Elegant low sheen finish
Best in low traffic areas
Recommended Use: Living Room, Dining Room, Bedroom, Foyer, Family Room, Children's Room, Laundry Room, Kitchen, Bathroom



Semi-Gloss

Most scrubbable paint for walls
Smooth sheen reflects light
Excellent for high-traffic areas
Recommended Use: Kitchen
(cabinets/doors), Bathroom
(cabinets/doors), Trim, Moulding



Gloss

Most scrubbable finish
Smooth high-shine finish
Ideal for frequently washed surfaces
Recommended Use: Trim, Woodwork,
Moulding, Doors, Cabinets



Paint Protection

Whether your paint project is large or small, it is important to protect your home and yourself from paint spills and paint fumes. Before you begin your project, walk around the room or area and decide if you will need plastic sheeting, drop cloths or tie-backs for exterior shrubs or tree branches. Be sure to pick up a roll or two of painter's tape to tape off any windows, countertops, doors, or trim work that will not be painted.



Paint Preparation

Regardless if the surface you are painting has been painted before or not, it is a good idea to spend the time to properly prepare the surface for new paint. Proper preparation will make paint go on more smoothly, look better, and last longer. For interior painting, you will probably need sandpaper, patching compound, and an interior primer. For exterior painting, you may want to rent or purchase a pressure washer to clean the surface dirt away from your home, and a wire brush to scrape away dirt or debris. If you notice any cracks or holes in your home's exterior surface you should fill them with a paintable acrylic latex caulk product prior to painting.



Paint Tools and Accessories

Believe it or not, selecting the right set of paint tools is just as important as choosing a high-quality paint. For professional quality results, choose professional quality brushes and rollers for your project. If they are cleaned and stored after your project, they will last a lifetime.

Ceiling Paint

Is there a difference between interior wall paint and interior ceiling paint? This question is a common one throughout home improvement stores; and the simple answer is yes. Ceilings are among the most difficult interior surfaces to paint. The overhead angle is physically challenging and applying white ceiling paint on top of already white paint makes it difficult to see start and stop points. In many cases, re-coating or touch-ups are required to cover missed areas.

The key differences lie in ceiling paint's thickness and durability. Ceiling paint is usually thicker than interior wall and trim paint; its thickness allows it to cover spots, stains and irregularities in the ceiling surface. Its durability is slightly lower than wall paint, since it will not be subjected to everyday stressors, and will not need to be washed.

Ceiling paint is manufactured to include qualities that make it perfect for creating a uniform ceiling surface.

When selecting ceiling paint look for these features:

- Premium-quality acrylic latex formulation
- Excellent "hiding" ability (to cover existing stains, spots)
- Easy application to all ceiling surfaces
- Spatter-resistant formula (for use on texture, popcorn, and acoustic style ceilings)
- Excellent adhesion qualities (for previously painted or primed ceilings made of drywall, plaster, masonry, stucco, acoustic tile or wood)

Although the typical ceiling is painted white, some ceiling paint manufacturers, such as Glidden, offer tintable ceiling paints. Glidden also offers a new product called EZ Track that makes painting a ceiling easy and fun! The new paint features an advanced, pre-mixed, color-changing technology that is revolutionizing the ceiling paint category. The EZ Track patent pending formulation features a specially designed colorant that temporarily appears pink when applied and then transforms to a smooth, bright white in less than 30 minutes. This paint combines the quality of Glidden with a technology that reduces the challenges associated with painting a ceiling.

The EZ Track paint features a drying time that is dramatically reduced to just 30 minutes, compared with 24 hours for competitive products. Also, the paint is pre-mixed so it does not require messy additives and colorants. And the shelf life is nearly two years, compared to paints that lose their formulation and become regular paint within just two weeks. Glidden Ceiling Paint with EZ Track Technology comes with a money-back warranty to ensure complete satisfaction.

READY TO PAINT

Now that your surface is prepared and you have all your materials, you can start painting. You should plan for two coats of paint for a finished look. But, for some colors (especially reds), you may need more than two coats to make sure the paint is the desired color.

Hope this helps and happy painting!

If you have any questions about painting or any home improvement project, e-mail me at ron.specht@yourhomecolumbus.com.