

PAINT TIPS

Want a fast and easy way to clean up latex paint from your brushes and roller covers?

Instead of using soap and water, use liquid fabric softener and water! Rinse your brush well with water, pour fabric softener over the bristles and work in well. Rinse the brush thoroughly. You'll find you have your tools clean in about one minute!

Applying a dark paint color over a light one?

It's always best to use a primer that has been tinted gray. A gray primer gives much better coverage of your dark color allowing you to use fewer coats. This is especially true when using dark reds or greens. Without a gray primer, you may have to apply as many as five or six coats before the light colored paint no longer shows through.

You've just finished your wood project and are ready to stain it. What's next?

Apply a wood conditioner first to fill up the pores and make them more uniform. This will help you obtain a more even finish when you apply the stain.

Test a couple of samples and see the difference for yourself. After all, you have a lot of time invested in your project and want it to look the very best it can!

Choosing the right roller cover

If your surface is smooth (no texture) use a 3/8" napped roller. If it's a semi-smooth surface, such as orange peel, use 1/2" nap. If your surface is rough such as knock down, use a cover with 3/4" nap. A 1" nap is used for very rough surfaces, such as cinder blocks. We carry a full line of roller covers in various qualities and multi packs.

Preparing your roller cover for painting

Before you paint, you'll want to remove the fuzz from your roller covers. The easiest way to do this is take tape and wrap it around your hand (sticky side out), and press it all over the roller cover. If you don't do this, the fuzz will be left on your newly painted walls.

Re-staining a deck

What is the key in knowing when to re-stain your deck or porch? A good way to find out whether your deck or porch is ready to be re-stained, is to test it by sprinkling a few drops of water on your surface. If the water beads up, it will not accept a penetrating stain. If the water soaks into the wood, then it's time to stain. There are some steps that you should do before you start staining. If there is existing stain on your surface, you'll need to remove it first. We carry several products that will strip off the old stain and give you a clean finish. If the wood is grey, you can use a Wood Brighter to bring it back to its natural color. Whether your stripping stain or just using a wood brighter, you should always thoroughly clean with a deck wash and rinse well. Let the wood dry for several days before applying new finish, if the wood is not completely dry, it will just take several more days to completely dry thoroughly.

We have several products to give you the look that you're after, whether you are

wanting a clear coat, transparent, semi-transparent and even solid coat. The semi-transparent and solid coats are available in a multitude of colors or we can even color match to an existing color or a new color. Just bring us a color sample at least the size of a quarter.

Paint Recycling

The American Coatings Association's paint recycling program is gaining momentum nationwide. The ACA created paint care a 501(c) (3) organization that promotes paint recycling. Their website gives ideas on helping to generate less paint waste.

Some ideas are:

- To buy the correct amount of paint
- Smart storage – store where it won't freeze, put plastic wrap on can before sealing and labeling the lid for future reference
- Use paint for smaller projects or give to neighbors or local community organization
- Recycle left over paint. Most communities have a household hazardous waste program.

For more information on this topic, visit the website paintcare.org

Efflorescence

Efflorescence is a white crystalline or powdery deposit on the surface of masonry materials like concrete, brick, clay tile, etc. It is caused by water seeping through the wall or floor. Water dissolves salts inside the object while moving through it, then evaporates leaving salt on surface.

Water soluble salts can be removed by dry brushing or with water and a stiff brush. Heavy accumulations can be removed with an acid wash. Muriatic acid is concentrated and should be mixed with water. One part acid to 12 parts water or adjust as needed. Wet surface before and wash after applying. Follow precautions on label as Muriatic Acid is CORROSIVE AND HARMFUL.