

DIY Painting Guide

April 2006

Take a DIY holiday at home this Easter



Why not do something different this Easter and escape the crowds, the noise and expensive accommodation and be a quiet achiever by staying at home and doing some of those jobs you have been putting off.

With winter's chill approaching, the Easter break may be your last chance to paint the outside of your home.

Easter ideal for painting

In most parts of Australia, the weather is moderate at Easter – an ideal time for creating a durable, long lasting exterior finish that will not only resist the damage caused by the sun's UV rays but add value to your home.

Painting in extreme heat or cold can prevent paint from achieving its maximum performance. Wait until the weather is forecast to reach temperatures between 15°C and 30°C.

Even so, surfaces exposed to direct sun can become too hot at any time of year. Try organising your work to ensure you are painting in the shade and avoid painting on windy, rainy or humid days. And having more time to paint means you'll have a better chance of finishing before the weather changes.

Choose quality

Giving up leisure time to paint your home makes it even more important that you choose paint that will be easier to apply, cover the surface better and maintain its good looks as long as possible.

At the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute, we recommend you always purchase the highest quality paint to get the best paint performance.

While purchasing a top quality water based 100 percent acrylic topcoat may cost a little more,



it will last longer than a cheaper variety, and retain its colour and flexibility better than oil-based paint.

Top quality 100% acrylic paints – usually the best line of paint from a reputable brand – outperform ordinary grades in many ways. They are:

- More durable and long lasting;
- Better at hiding the substrate, including over darker colours;
- Easier to apply;
- More uniform in colour and sheen; and
- Maintain their original looks longer.

Finally, don't forget to buy good quality tools and brushes.

Better quality brushes and rollers will apply a thicker, more uniform coat of paint that will look better and last longer than if it were applied with cheap equipment.

That way, you'll be able to sit back and admire your Easter paint job for many years to come! ■

Colour trends switch to neutrals

With 'bright colour fatigue' affecting homeowners, many people will be turning to neutrals or more serene colours.

That's the verdict from the US arm of the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute (PQI) which recently released its colour trend predictions for 2006.

The Paint Quality Institute is a brand neutral organization that operates in several countries around the world and promotes the use of quality paint by providing expert information on everything from the latest colour and decorating ideas to surface preparation and painting techniques.

Exotic Enhancements

Perhaps the most-talked-about trend for 2006 is the use of travel-inspired colours to decorate the home. We are all starting to suffer from 'bright colour fatigue' and now favour richer, deeper hues that evoke thoughts of far-off destinations.

This palette takes inspiration from the rich jewel-tones of



Oriental rugs, or the vivid sights of a Moroccan market. Key colours include rich red-purples, deep browns and dark yellows, as well as ebony and ivory accents.

This dramatic trend works especially well in family or dining rooms, adding a feeling of warmth and excitement.

Skintone Neutrals

The exotic colour trend finds its balance in another palette, Skintone Neutrals, which include a wide spectrum of flesh-toned hues.

These latest neutrals take their inspiration from the cosmetics counter in both colour and purpose. Just as a powder or liquid cosmetic enhances the skin or serves as a backdrop for brighter colours, so, too, do the new skintone paint colours.

Applied on their own, these hues appear particularly fresh when used in an open floor plan. But they also serve as an ideal backdrop for any room where a bolder accent wall is employed.



Soulful Serenity

For those who would like to try something new for their bedroom or bathroom sanctuary, consider using true pastels, such as soft pink, pale yellow and misty lavender. These tints offer a fresh twist on the spa concept, while still encouraging a relaxing atmosphere. And since the Serenity colour schemes are more diverse, they can even be expanded into family or sitting rooms. ■

Mineral Spirits

When you want to add colour to your home but aren't quite ready for vivid hues, then Mineral Spirits may be the best choice.

Drawing inspiration from lush forest landscapes, these earth tones have more 'pop' and are a bit brighter than in previous years. Dusty shades of blue and lavender, as well as rosy browns, echo colours found in nature.

Because of their softness and their welcoming appearance, they are especially good choices for use in the kitchen and bathroom.



Media Note

Text, photos and graphics from this special DIY Painting Guide, as well as other articles and images can be downloaded from our websites at:

www.paintquality.com.au
www.paintquality.co.nz

Just click on Press Room and follow the links to DIY Painting Guide.

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Clean up your act... with soap and water!

For many of us, painting the exterior of our home is as much about presenting our best face to the world as protecting the substrate underneath.

So after all your hard work painting the outside, how do you protect your home and make your paint job look as good as possible for a long time?

Dirt and dust particles on the paint film of your home's exterior will certainly detract from its good looks.

You can't change the air pollution, car exhaust fumes and flying dust that are the prime culprits but there are a number of ways you can limit their impact.

Ensure you wash off all surface dirt before priming and painting.

Choose a top quality exterior acrylic paint. The more porous the paint is the more easily it will entrap dirt. The less porous, more slippery surface of gloss paints will give you superior resistance to airborne dirt.

If you do have a problem with dirt pick up, clean the paint film with a scrubbing brush and detergent solution then rinse thoroughly.

Heavier dirt accumulation may require the use of a power washer.

Mildew can sometimes be mistaken for dirt pick up.

If you don't know whether it is mildew or dirt, you can conduct a simple spot test. Just add a few drops of household bleach to the



discoloured area and, if it disappears, it is probably mildew.

What causes mildew? Mould spores grow best in damp areas which receive little sunlight. Low gloss paints tend to trap mould spores, and painting over old mildew can allow regrowth through a new paint film.

To remove mildew, scrub with a diluted household bleach solution (one part bleach, three parts water) and don't forget to wear rubber gloves and eye protection.

Rinse thoroughly. Power washing is also an option.

Prime any bare wood, then apply one or two coats of top quality exterior paint or use a premium quality self-priming acrylic paint, and your home's exterior will sparkle once again.

Keeping your home in top condition does take a little work but the good news is that regular wash downs will ensure the paint film lasts longer... and you won't have to repaint nearly as often. ■

It's time to break with tradition

It was once thought that modern water based acrylic paints were no match for traditional oil based enamel products when it came to ease of application and toughness.

But today's water based acrylic enamels are more than just a chip off the old block.

Advanced new technology means not only are they as tough as traditional enamels but also have a range of performance and environmental benefits that put them well ahead for most applications.

Traditionally, solvent based products have been the first choice for areas requiring a particularly smooth, tough and glossy finish such as doors, architraves, skirting boards, windows and timber trims.

But the downside is that they yellow and lose their high gloss over time, and are prone to chipping and cracking as the paint becomes more brittle with age.

While some solvent based enamels offer a slightly higher initial gloss level, water based acrylic enamels are just as easy to apply as traditional enamels, retain their gloss and colour longer, will not yellow over time, and have better resistance to mildew, dirt, chipping and cracking.

Solvent based enamels also emit unpleasant fumes during drying, have approximately five times more Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) and are messier to use than water based acrylic enamels.

Compared to their solvent based counterparts, top quality water based acrylic enamels dry faster, can be recoated in just two hours, and there's no lingering odour so you can occupy the room sooner.

The new acrylic enamels are much easier to use because brushes and rollers simply wash out in water and, with significantly lower VOCs, they are much easier on you and the environment!

So next time you want to paint trim work, think differently about enamels. You'll find it pays to break tradition once in a while and go with the latest products. ■



Painting tips 24/7...from PQI

Questions

1. Can you apply oil based paint over an acrylic paint on a timber deck?
2. How long before I can paint a brand new galvanized iron downpipe?
3. Do I need a primer when repainting brickwork if the paint is in excellent condition?

SEE ANSWERS BELOW.

The answers to these and a myriad of painting questions are just a mouse click away 24 hours a day, seven days a week on the Paint Quality Institute's website, www.paintquality.com.au

It is a great source of information on virtually every aspect of paint and painting, and the great thing is that it's there when you need it... even if you are up a ladder at 11pm on a Saturday night!

www.paintquality.com.au will also stimulate your decorating ideas with articles and images on the creative use of paint and colour in your home.

You can learn the steps to a successful paint job, find the solutions to painting issues, work out the type of paint you need, and even how to successfully employ a painting contractor.

The information is comprehensive, accessible, full of practical tips and backed by the Institute's access to some of the best international and local painting expertise available.

So don't agonise on what to do next, click on www.paintquality.com.au for the answer!



Answers

1. No. You need to repaint with a top quality water based 100% acrylic.
2. It takes from 2-4 weeks' exposure to the elements for the film of oil from the manufacturing process to evaporate. Or you can wipe it down with mineral turpentine, rinse and allow to dry before applying a primer or self-priming acrylic top coat.
3. Priming is helpful but not necessary, unless specified by the paint manufacturer.

Take it easy when you paint

The personal rewards of satisfaction and pride you'll receive when you paint the exterior of your home are great but don't kid yourself, it can be a big job.

So how do you rise to the challenge and achieve great things without becoming overly stressed?

The answer is to take it easy when you are painting!

That doesn't mean you go slow. It does mean that you shouldn't try to do everything in one chaotic day of painting and that you need to plan out what is achievable, affordable and, perhaps, even enjoyable.

The key is in planning out what has to be done in terms of the tools you'll need, what preparation is required to achieve the right surface for painting, whether you need to prime the substrate, and how many topcoats are required.

In terms of the painting process, the best approach is:

- Work from the top down so that no paint is dripped on to areas you have already painted;
- Paint the fascia boards, gutters and eaves first. Then tackle the walls, follow up with the downpipes, then windows, doors and trim;



Paint the fascia boards, gutters and eaves first.

- When painting weatherboards, apply paint horizontally, working your way across several boards (stopping in the middle can cause unsightly lapping marks); and
- Regardless of the surface you are painting, don't stop painting until you reach a visual breakpoint, such as the door, window or corner.

By breaking the job down into achievable chunks of activity, you'll be surprised how much easier the task seems and how much more enjoyment you get from the process. ■

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