

DIY Painting Guide

March 2005

A change at Easter can be as good as a holiday

When you don't have a lot of spare time, the Easter break is a great time to focus on those DIY projects around the home.

Changing the colour in a child's bedroom or completing the unfinished job you started on an outside wall can be a very satisfying and rewarding way to use the holiday period.

Not only will you have the fun of changing or rejuvenating an aspect of your home but, with the right preparation and paint, you can add value.

Here are a few tips from the experts at The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute to help ensure your Easter painting project is a success.

Exterior painting tips

- Remove all loose, flaking or peeling paint using a scraper and then sand the surface.
- Sand any glossy surfaces to a dull finish to help the paint adhere properly. Bare wood that has been exposed to the elements for a few weeks also needs sanding.



- Fill any cracks, gaps or holes with a paintable acrylic sealant.
- Clean all surfaces with warm soapy water using a long handled brush, then rinse thoroughly to remove any soap residues.
- Preparation can be faster and you'll help the environment by using less water if you use high pressure power washing equipment but be careful on loose mortar and around windows.
- To remove mould or mildew, scrub the surface with a solution consisting of one part household bleach to three parts water, allow to stand for 15 minutes, then rinse thoroughly.
- After all surfaces have been cleaned, sanded and repaired, give a final dust off prior to painting.
- When painting outside, it's also a good idea to look after your

garden. A drop sheet over trees, flowers and shrubs protects them from dust and any paint spatter.

Interior painting tips

- Carefully inspect the surfaces to be painted looking for chips, cracks, uneven joints, exposed nails, chipped or peeling paint.
- Use a paintable acrylic sealant to fill cracks and seal any gaps.
- Remove any loose plaster, patch holes, allow to dry and sand smooth.
- If you have any cracked, chipped or peeling paint on woodwork, use a scraper to remove as much as possible and sandpaper the surface to a smooth finish.
- Sand any glossy surfaces to help the paint adhere. But be careful. If you suspect there is any old lead paint in your home, do not sand the area and contact your paint retailer for advice.
- Once you have repaired any damaged surfaces, remove accumulated dust, dirt and grime with a sponge and sugar soap solution.

- For stubborn stains, you can use a scrubbing brush and cleaning solution containing ammonia or household bleach. Protect yourself with rubber gloves and safety glasses.
- Allow all surfaces to dry thoroughly and you are ready to apply a quality paint! While you may be tempted to skip these steps to a quality paint job, inadequate surface preparation is the single greatest cause of paint failures, says Mike Beresford, Manager of the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute. "No matter what surface you are painting, good surface preparation requires that the surface is as clean as possible and in a good state of repair. "Paint performance depends on good adhesion, and paint adheres best to surfaces that are clean, dry and sound. "For a successful result from your efforts over Easter, it pays to spend some time preparing the surfaces to be painted to ensure you achieve a great finish that will last for years and years." ■

Be a film star with quality paint

You can't tell much about a movie by just looking at film 'in the can'...and the same goes for looking at paint in the can!

Ordinary paint may look 'thick' in the can, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will give you a thicker coverage (or film) when it goes on your walls or ceiling.

The only way to ensure you get the ease of application, long life

and better performance offered by a thicker paint film, is to purchase top quality paint.

Quality = value

The quality of the paint you buy will not only impact on the look and longevity of the finished job, but also the amount of time you'll need to invest in your project. They may cost a little more but top quality paints typically contain a higher percentage of better ingredients that are critical to superior paint performance. The higher the level of binder and pigments in the can, the thicker the protective film left behind on the wall when the paint dries.

Better performance

The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute recommends top quality 100% acrylic paints because they outperform ordinary grades of paint in many ways. Top quality paints:

- Are more durable and long lasting – top quality 100% acrylic paint can last twice as

long as ordinary paints

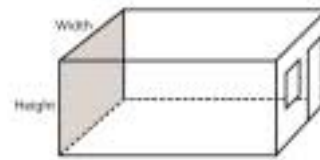
- Have better hiding characteristics which is important when you are painting over a darker colour
- Are better to apply – painting with top quality paint will mean you not only use less paint and take less time, but you get a smoother finish too.
- Have more uniform colour and sheen and they maintain their original colour and sheen better over time so your paint job will continue to look good for a longer period
- Are very washable – interior acrylic paints resist stains and protect against moisture in wet areas of the home.

The last thing you want to do is invest time and energy working with a product which is not going to give you the long term results you expect from your painting project.

So if you want to be a film star with your next paint project...and get the best value as well... choose top quality paint. ■

How much paint do I need?

Before you start your Easter project, doing some simple calculations will ensure you know exactly how much paint you need to purchase to complete the job.



To work out what you need:

- Measure the dimensions of the surface area and multiply the height by the width.
- Do the same calculation for any areas you won't be painting, such as doorways and windows.
- Subtract the 'non painting' areas from the overall surface area to give you the area that needs painting.

Once you've selected your paint, the can label will give you the 'spread rate'.

This is the area each litre of paint will cover in each coat – typically this will be between 10 and 16 square metres per litre.

Dividing the total surface area by the spread rate will give you the number of litres you need for each coat.

However, there are some other considerations. The type of paint, the colour, the method of application and nature of the surface may all impact on the number of coats you should apply.

Some exterior masonry surfaces can be very porous and absorb paint – in such cases the spread rate will be lower, and an additional coat may be needed. Brushing tends to put on a heavier, better hiding coat than roller application.

To get the most from your hard work it is always wise to apply two coats of paint.

On the exterior this will give you better protection from the harsh UV rays of the sun and the weather. Inside, a second coat will provide better protection against washing or scrubbing marks from walls.

One tip from the experts is that it is always best to buy a little more paint than you expect to use to avoid running out just before the job is completed.

Also, purchasing all your paint at once will help ensure that the colour is consistent from can to can.

If you have leftover paint keep it in a well sealed container so you can use it for touch ups. ■

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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Europe goes bolder with colour

Following a period when muted colours seemed to be the rage, Europeans are taking a bolder approach to colour in 2005, according to the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute.

After a few years of softer, neutral tones that reflected tough political and economic times, people are choosing more lively colours to evoke more positive feelings.

The Paint Quality Institute found that four styles exemplified this trend in Europe.



Beach Life: chic kitsch

Think Miami...this trend takes its inspiration from the slightly brasher, slightly kitschy side of life by the swimming pool and the ocean, and turns it into something bright, light and very contemporary.

Think of the sparkling aquamarine ocean, vibrant beach towels flung across sun lounges, and the candy shades of beach houses and you have the key to this style.

Mix vibrant tones of sunshine yellow, and aquamarine, adding sparkling sequin accessories and fresh-cut flowers to complete the feel.

of course, the stunning colours of the Orient.

Strong colours are central to this trend – a rich orange is both warm and exotic, and works well with rich, spicy reds or luscious pinks, as well as earth-tones and terracotta.

As a contrast colour, try offsetting with a shade of blue – a Japanese-style flower stencil is a real eye-catcher, and is easy to do. Use fast-drying, water-based quality acrylic paints to give you a great, durable finish.



Space Age: a shimmering future

Space Age is all about creating a slightly futuristic feel to your home, but very sophisticated, very understated, with shimmering metallic colours glinting against muted colours.

Shades of blue and grey look great when set off against chrome and glass accessories. White architectural flower arrangements work well with this look.

A neat touch is to add a couple of artists' canvases painted with complementary tones of metallic silvers and greys – easy to do with a little masking tape. Make the panels even more of a focal point by directing light on to the metallic paint to create a shimmering effect. ■



Voyage: bring the exotic home

This look is inspired by travel to far-flung shores, with its new experiences, new sensations and,



Crimson Tide: a new take on the 60s

Dramatic, passionate, but also slightly quirky, this retro theme trend takes a strong red and mixes it with its adjacent colours in funky, slightly irregular circles to form a harmonious colour group.

With a strong, deep red as a base colour, try shades of fuchsia, purple and pink in funky, slightly irregular circles to create your take on a 1960s theme. Great for a feature wall – the circles create the illusion of movement.

We're talking bold colour here, so water based acrylic paints are ideal for a durable finish that will keep its colour brilliance longer.

To balance the look, contrast with more neutral colours – grey and beige work beautifully.

DIY painting... 10 tips on safety



With the strong focus on occupational health and safety in the workplace, we're all aware of the importance of safety at work.

But shouldn't you think about safety when you are working around the home?

Remember, when you embark on any DIY project, your home effectively becomes your workplace, so you need to ensure you have a safe working environment.

Here are 10 tips on making your DIY painting project a safe one.

- Wear gloves, safety glasses and a dust mask to protect your skin, eyes and lungs.
- Wear cloth gloves for surface preparation tasks such as scraping, wire-brushing, sanding and patching, and whenever you are working around splintered wood.
- Wear rubber gloves when you are working with bleach solution, paint removers and any type of acid, paint thinners, mineral spirits and similar materials. *Be sure the rubber gloves are the kind that won't melt when exposed to lacquer thinners and other chemicals.*
- Wear safety glasses or goggles for eye protection when you are wire brushing, scraping, sanding or painting overhead. They are also a must when handling acids, bleach or other harsh chemicals.
- Wear a dust mask when sanding and, if you're spray painting, an organic vapour respirator will prevent paint spray or fumes from entering the lungs.
- Dress in comfortable, loose-fitting clothing and wear rubber-soled or non-slip shoes for ladder safety.
- Inspect your ladders to make sure the rungs are intact and free from dirt and paint build up that could interfere with footing.
- Always use power washers, power sanders and spray painting equipment with care and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Special care needs to be taken when using solvents. Wear rubber gloves and work only in well-ventilated areas. Never haphazardly mix products together as toxic fumes can result.
- Immerse in water any rags or paper you have used to apply or clean up solvents or solvent based coatings to prevent spontaneous combustion, then place them in a fireproof container until disposal.

With any DIY project, it is vital to make safety a priority. It just isn't worth taking risks at home or in the workplace. ■

Avoid seeing red over yellowing paint

Nobody wants to see a yellow cast develop on a white or light coloured surface inside their home. So here are a few tips to ensure the only yellow you see will be the colour you've chosen!

Yellowing is the gradual formation of a yellow cast in aging solvent based enamel paints or clear varnishes.

It is particularly prevalent where white solvent based paints dry in the dark, in high humidity or if there is poor air circulation.

For example, a sliding door left in the cavity would be a prime candidate for yellowing because it is not exposed to sunlight.

A yellowing problem can also occur if solvent based paints are allowed to dry in close proximity to drying water based paints. An example would be where the trim is in a solvent based enamel and the walls are in water based acrylic paints.

To counteract this situation it is best to allow 2-3 days for water based paints to dry before using solvent based enamels.

But the only way to be sure that your white painted interior surfaces won't yellow is to avoid using solvent based paints wherever possible and use a top quality 100% acrylic (water based) paint.

For years, the conventional wisdom was that water based acrylics were not a patch on solvent based enamels when it

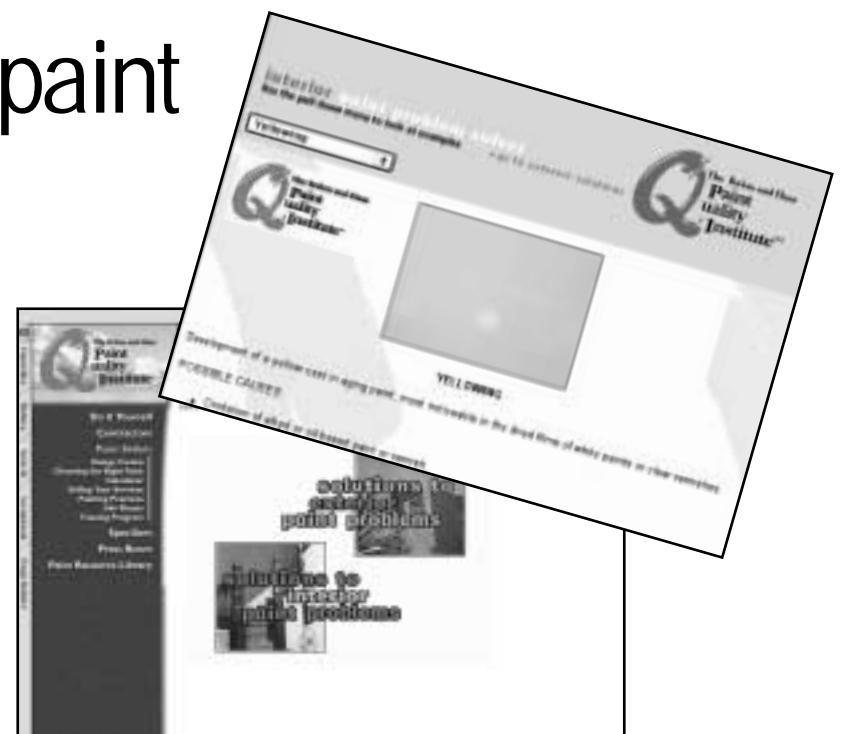
came to ease of application and toughness.

That wisdom is now being turned on its head with the new generation of high tech, water based enamels being produced today by quality paint manufacturers.

Breakthrough acrylic technology has led to the development of high gloss water based products that combine the ease of application and toughness of solvent based enamels with the convenience and reduced odour of water based products.

Thanks to giant leaps in paint chemistry, water based gloss acrylic paints are now available that perform as well – and often better – than their solvent based counterparts.

Naturally, we hope you don't encounter any problems when you're painting, but sometimes even experienced painters encounter unexpected challenges! If you do encounter any



problems with your DIY painting project, great information is generally only a click away at www.paintquality.com.au and www.paintquality.co.nz

The Problem Solver section of

the PQI website has common interior and exterior paint problems each with a photograph so that you can identify the problems, a list of possible causes and solutions. ■

