



Handy Hints

Choosing the right brush

Natural bristle brushes commonly called China brushes are made from animal hair usually hog. Since natural bristles are hollow or have split ends they hold lots of paint finish or stain then release it evenly. The best ones have bristles of varying lengths so they release the paint evenly and smoothly not all at once. However, latex paint eventually causes natural bristles to swell leaving you with a floppy fluffy harder to control brush.

Door painting helper

Paint both sides of a door at once with this nifty trick. Purchase three 3/8-in. lag bolts at a hardware store. Screw one into the center of the top edge and the other two into the bottom edge 6 in. in from each end. Paint one side of the door, then lift the door by the two bolts and flip it over using the single bolt as a pivot. Now paint the edges and other side of the door. When the door is dry, fill the holes with putty and touch up with paint.



Spray can nozzle cleaner

Nozzles from cans of spray paint tend to clog with dried paint after use. Here is a trick to keep them clear for the next project. Remove the nozzle and stick it on your can of WD-40 (most are the same size and shape). Just give the nozzle a quick squirt to clear it out, and then return the nozzles to their rightful places.

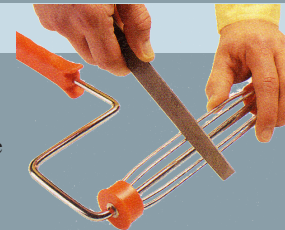


Keeping stuff spatter-free

Painting can be a messy chore. The paint seems to wind up on all kinds of surfaces where you do not want it, including the dog. For all that, odd-shaped stuff that is hard to cover, such as lights, the phone and doorknobs, try covering with plastic wrap. You will be amazed at everything it can cling to, including walls. Because the plastic wrap is clear, you can still use the phone while it is covered. You might have to tape the plastic in place in some cases, and for hot surfaces like some lights, use aluminum foil instead. As for Fido, he is better off outside chasing squirrels.

Stop runaway roller sleeves

This is for anyone who has been frustrated by those roller sleeves that slip off the end of the roller frame as you paint. Use the corner of a metal file to cut a bunch of shallow notches into the bars of the roller frame. The sleeve will stay put for hours of rolling.



- A. Synthetic bristles with flagged ends
- B. Nylon brush with blunt ends
- C. Natural China bristle brush



The Family Handyman

Quick Reference Guide Paints & Brushes



The Right Paint

Not all brushes and paint are created equal. Here is how to select the best materials for the best paint job.



	Primers	Latex primer	Alkyd primer	Aluminum paint	Rust-inhibiting metal primer	Zinc-dust primer	Cement paint	Waterproofing paint	Block filler	Masonry sealer	Finish coats	Gloss enamel (latex)	Gloss enamel (alkyd)	Semi gloss enamel (latex)	Semi gloss enamel (alkyd)	Flat paint (latex)	Flat paint (alkyd)	Textured paint (latex)	Acrylic enamel (latex)	Floor enamel (latex)	Floor enamel (alkyd)	Epoxy paint	
New Plaster																							
Painted plaster																							
New wallboard																							
Painted wallboard																							
Uncoated paper																							
Vinyl wall covering																							
Wood paneling *																							
Acrylic-finish paneling																							
New plywood/particleboard																							
Painted plywood																							
New wood floor *																				1	1	1	
Finished wood floor *																							
New wood trim *																							
Finished wood trim *																							
Vinyl-clad trim																							
Acoustical tile																	2						
New masonry																							
Treated masonry																							
New brick																							
Steel																							
Aluminum																							
Galvanized metal																							
Cast iron																							

• indicates the paint is formulated for several surfaces and materials look for the appropriate choice.
 1 Use a thinned finish coat as a primer (follow manufacturers directions).
 2 Apply a thin coat to avoid damaging the tiles acoustic properties.
 * Assumes you want a painted rather than a natural finish.

Interior paint choices

Surfaces inside a house that you may wish to paint are listed below. Paint and other coating choices are across the top of the chart. Pick a surface and follow its column across the top of the chart. Each colored square suggest a suitable covering. To identify the product follow the column above the colored square to the top of the chart.

Buying paint for interior use

The chemistry of modern paints makes it possible to coat and protect almost any surface with a specially formulated paint. You must in fact be very specific in discussing your paint needs with your dealer. The nature of the surface you plan to paint what it has been coated with before and the kind of wear it will get all are important factors.

Do not economize on paint quality. Buying a manufacturers premium line is worth the investment. Application will be easier and the paint job will last longer. To save money buy a primer or undercoat which costs less instead of priming with a finish-paint. Also, watch for sales. Check labels for compatibility of primer and paint.

To estimate the number of gallons of paint you need, compute the square footage of area you plan to paint and divide by the manufacturers estimated coverage per gallon. Paint feeders and sprayers will require more.

Latex based paint

Easy to apply quick drying non-toxic when inhaled and requiring only soap and water for cleanup latex paints come in high gloss semi gloss eggshell (satin or low luster) and flat finishes. There are also formulas to meet special needs such as latex floor enamels textured paints for less than perfect walls and ceilings and epoxies for water proofing cellar walls. Because water-thinned latex paints cause rust on unprimed metal, coat it first with a rust inhibiting metal primer. Latex primers do not seal out moisture as well as oil base ones.

Solvent thinned paint

Now made with synthetic resins called alkyds instead of linseed and other oils these paints particularly in a glossy finish give a smoother, richer, more scrubbable coating than latex. Alkyd paints dry more quickly than oil paints and have less odor but they do pose environmental problems. Provide good ventilation and wear a respirator during application. Alkyd paints their solvents and solvent soaked rags are toxic and combustible follow hazardous waste disposal regulations.