

## WATER-BASED PAINTS: A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO SOLVENT-BASED PAINTS

To a large extent, water-based paints pose fewer risks and health hazards than solvent phase paints. Modern, high quality water-based paints offer an excellent performance profile – superior durability and colour retention, excellent washability, for example. They are also more convenient to use – low in odor, they dry quickly, and brushes can be cleaned with warm, soapy water, with no need for white spirit or turpentine. They are more environmentally-friendly.

### USING STEP-LADDERS SAFELY

Step ladders are very often both a central part of a paint job, but also a key danger area. Here are some tips on how to minimize the likelihood of a ladder-related accident.

#### INSPECT THE LADDER:

- Take time to check the condition of the ladder both before and after use.
- Check that the ladder is sufficiently robust to support your weight.
- Make sure the steps are free of oil, wet paint, mud, or any other potentially slippery substance.

#### ERECTING THE LADDER:

- Clear the area around the ladder from any clutter. Make sure that no electrical cords or wire leads are close.
- If the ladder needs to be in front of a door, consider locking the door to prevent surprise openings.
- If the ladder is in a high-traffic area, draw attention to this fact in the house – a hand-written sign would do.
- Make sure the floor is even and stable. Avoid wet or slippery surfaces.
- Always support the ladder at four points.

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We say  
**Yes**  
to getting  
the job  
done right



Follow these steps for  
that perfect paint  
**finish**



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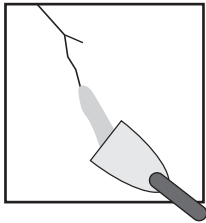
Importance of Surface  
**Preparation**



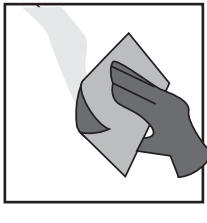
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## PREPARE SURFACE PROPERLY

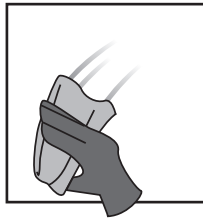
Just like paints and other coatings, primers and sealers perform better when the substrate is properly prepared. Cracks, nail holes and other surface imperfections should be filled and sanded smooth. Rusty surfaces, in particular, need extensive work to prepare them adequately. Most importantly, the surface should be clean and free of all dust, dirt, grime, loose or flaking paint and other contaminants before primer is applied.



Scrape away loose paint or rust and fill cracks



Smooth the surface using sandpaper



Wipe away all dust, dirt, grime or any loose particles

## REMEMBER TO CLEAN TO PAINT AND NOT PAINT TO CLEAN

Whilst it is always wise to use a primer in order to achieve the highest quality paint job, the following circumstances are important for use of a primer:

- When painting new wood, new plaster or paper-faced plasterboard, or another surface that has never been painted.
- When repainting a surface that is uneven or badly deteriorated.
- When painting a surface that has been stripped or is worn down to the original substrate.
- The coating must make intimate contact with the surface. Typical examples of interference of a coating, rust, oil, grease, water. Spray application of very quick drying materials would be the least tolerant.

## USE OF THE RIGHT TOOLS & BRUSHES

- GOOD QUALITY tools and brushes last longer, helps a job move along quickly and applies the paint smoothly which helps with durability.
- Brushes should feel well balanced when held, bristles should be packed tightly and tapered up to the centre of the brush.
- Use Synthetic Bristle brushes with Latex paint. Natural bristles will swell when the bristles absorb water and will not apply evenly.
- Dampen brushes prior to painting (use water for latex paints and solvents for oil/alkyd paints).

## PAINT IN THE RIGHT WEATHER CONDITIONS

- Ideally do painting in dry conditions.
- Avoid painting in direct sunlight to avoid blistering caused by paint drying too fast.

## USING THE RIGHT PAINT FOR THE RIGHT JOB

- Choose the paint designed for the job you are doing. In most cases a top quality Latex Acrylic paint is best suited for most decorative purposes. These paints are more flexible, adhere better and are more durable for exterior and interior use.
- Never use an interior paint for exterior use. The paint made for interior use in most cases have not been designed to withstand the exterior atmospheric conditions.

## USING PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

- The basic gear you need for a safe DIY paint job are: gloves, safety glasses or goggles, a dust-mask for sanding, and sensible shoes with a good grip.



Gloves



Safety Glasses or Goggles



Dust Mask



Sensible Shoes with Grip

## BODY PROTECTION

### SKIN PROTECTION:

- Wear the appropriate gloves: cloth or leather gloves for sanding and scraping, impermeable gloves for applying water-based paint, solvent-resistant chemical gloves for handling solvent-based products.

### EYE PROTECTION:

- Use eye goggles or glasses, or a face mask.

### LUNG PROTECTION:

- Wear an anti-dust mask whilst sanding a surface or a solvent-respirator if working with solvent-based products.
- Ensure good ventilation with open windows and doors.
- Remove sources of ignition.

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