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PAINTING ROOM WALLS

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... With thanks to Michigan State University

Painting room walls is an easy and inexpensive way to improve the appearance of your home. By painting room walls, you can:

- make dark rooms lighter and more cheerful
- make small rooms look larger and more roomy
- make rooms look cleaner
- make rooms easier to keep clean



CHOOSING A COLOR

Walls make up the largest color area in a room, so the paint color is important to the room's overall appearance.

1. Choose a color you like and want to live with.

For a warm, lively feeling, use yellows, reds, oranges, yellow-oranges and yellow-greens.

For a cool, quiet feeling, use blues, greens, violets and blue-greens.

2. Choose soft, light colors for walls AND ceilings because:

- they are easy on the eyes

- they make rooms lighter
- they make rooms seem larger
- they make rooms look cheerful

3. Use the same color for walls and woodwork. When woodwork around doors, windows and floors is the same color as the walls, the room seems:

- less broken up
- larger
- more restful

CHOOSING A PAINT

Many kinds of paint are available. Two kinds best for room walls are alkyd oil-base paints and latex water-base paints.

Both kinds come in flat and semi-gloss finishes.

- Use flat finishes for ceilings, bedrooms and living rooms.

- Use semi-gloss finishes for kitchens, bathrooms and other rooms that are cleaned often.

Most alkyd and latex paints will cover a wall in one coat unless you are putting a light color over a very dark one. Have colors mixed at the store.

Alkyd Oil-base Paint

1. is easy to put on
2. is tough to chip or mar
3. can be scrubbed
4. does the best job of covering wall imperfections
5. covers the most wall space per gallon
6. is low in cost and high in performance

BUT

1. is sometimes hard to find in stores
2. dries slowly
3. is hard to touch up
4. must be thinned with mineral spirits
5. brushes must be cleaned with mineral spirits

Latex Water-base Paint

1. is easy to put on
2. is easy to clean up after painting
3. is easy to touch up
4. is quick drying
5. is non-flammable

BUT

1. is not washable until AFTER 30 days
2. is not as washable as alkyd oil-base and shows shiny spots when scrubbed
3. covers less wall space per gallon than alkyd oil-base
4. must be sanded between coats on new woodwork

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How Much to Buy

The paint dealer can tell you how much paint you will need if you tell him: the dimensions of the room (length-width-height) and the number of doors and windows in the room.

As a general rule, 1 gallon of paint will cover the walls and ceiling of a 11x12x8-foot room with one coat.

To Paint Over Papered Walls

1. Repaste loose edges and sand edges smooth with fine sandpaper.
2. Dust walls with dry mop, clean cloth or vacuum.
3. Remove grease spots because they will eventually show through the paint. Remove with a paste of cornstarch and a non-flammable cleaning fluid. Let dry; brush off. Repeat if necessary.

To Paint Over Painted Walls

1. Scrape off loose flakes of peeling paint.
2. Patch cracks and nail holes with a spackling compound.
3. Sand patched and scraped spots until smooth.
4. If the old paint has a glossy finish, sand the surface lightly so the new paint will "take."
5. Dust walls with dry mop or clean cloth.
6. Remove dirt and grease by washing with a detergent solution. Start at the bottom and wash up to prevent streaking.
7. Paint over patched areas and let dry before painting all the wall area.

PAINTING THE WALLS

Walls should be clean and smooth before you paint. Use latex paint over papered walls, because alkyd paint soaks through paper and makes it difficult to remove in the future.

Move furniture to the center of the room and put

newspaper on floor around walls. Open windows and doors for fresh air. Paint ceiling first, woodwork and window trim next, walls last. Wash up paint spills right away.

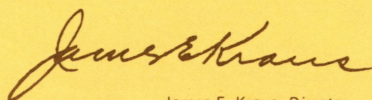
If You Paint With A Brush

1. Use a 3½- or 4-inch nylon brush (flagged and tipped) for walls; a 2-inch nylon brush (flagged and tipped) for woodwork and window trim.
2. Dip brush into paint without getting handle wet.
3. Start in a corner. Paint 2-to-3-foot strips next to the ceiling and woodwork.
4. Then paint a 2-to 3-foot wide area of wall from top to bottom, brushing freely in all directions. Finish with brush strokes in an up-and-down direction.
5. Continue working around the room in the same way: painting strips next to ceiling and woodwork, then filling in wall area. Always work from dry area into wet.

If You Paint With A Roller

1. You will need
 - 1 9-inch roller with medium nap cover for walls
 - 1 large paint tray
 - 1 2-inch nylon brush (flagged and tipped) for woodwork and window trim
2. Start in one corner. Use a brush to paint 2-to-3-foot strips along the ceiling and next to the woodwork.
3. Pour a small amount of paint into tray and load roller generously with paint.
4. Use the roller to paint a large "V" or "W" 2 to 3 feet wide in area of wall between painted strips. Then roll crosswise to spread paint evenly. Finish with light up-and-down strokes.
5. Continue working around the room in sections: painting strips next to ceiling and woodwork with brush, then filling in with roller. Always work from dry area into wet area.

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