How to paint Interior

- Choosing the right paint, gloss and primer
- Estimating the correct amount of paint
- Using the right tools and supplies
- Prepping and painting
- Cleaning up and caring for your walls
How to paint your home’s interior

Nothing in the world breathes life into your home like a fresh coat of Dunn-Edwards® paint.

Use this step-by-step brochure and our ultra premium Dunn-Edwards paints and premium primers to achieve beautiful, long-lasting, professional-quality results.

STEP 1: Choosing the right paint

While any paint can give a home a quick facelift, a premium paint can truly transform a home’s interior and make it last. A premium paint offers a smoother, more uniform appearance, as well as much better coverage, than an economy paint. Because a home is a major investment, premium paint provides the long-term protection it deserves.

Consider using EVEREST™ ultra premium, self priming, Zero VOC interior latex paints for superior stain resistance and washability, excellent hide and block resistance, and low odor.

And for the application and appearance of traditional oil-based paint with less odor, faster drying time and easy clean-up with water, try ARISTOWALL® ultra premium interior enamel finishes.

Selecting the Right Gloss

The gloss level you choose for your paint project can have a significant impact on both appearance and maintenance. A color in higher gloss paint will appear brighter and richer than the same color in a lower gloss. Also, higher glosses will have better washability and stain resistance, though they may also highlight defects and imperfections on a surface.

- Flat paints are a good choice for adult bedrooms, living or dining rooms, and ceilings. For these areas, we recommend EVEREST Interior Flat paint.
- Velvet, Eggshell or Low Sheen paints can be used for high-traffic areas such as hallways, family rooms or children’s bedrooms. We suggest EVEREST Interior Velvet or EVEREST Interior Eggshell paints.
- Semi-Gloss paints are ideal for kitchens, bathrooms, utility areas, woodwork, doors and trim. Consider using EVEREST Interior Semi-Gloss or ARISTOWALL Interior Semi-Gloss paint.
- Gloss paints are typically used in bathrooms and on doors and cabinets exposed to fingerprints and grime. Consider using ARISTOWALL Interior Gloss paint.

GLOSS RECOMMENDATIONS

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<tr>
<th>Walls - Residential</th>
<th>Flat</th>
<th>Velvet</th>
<th>Eggshell</th>
<th>Low Sheen</th>
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These are commonly used gloss levels for surfaces listed above. Gloss may be affected by texture, porosity of the surface and atmospheric conditions. Please contact a Dunn-Edwards® representative or your local store for specific product availability.
Priming before painting ensures superior adhesion of the paint to the surface, helps cover darker colored paints and stains, and creates a smoother, more even finish.

There are many different primers, each suited for a particular surface, such as drywall, metal or concrete, or to address a particular problem, such as to cover stains or to prevent tannin bleeding. Dunn-Edwards offers the following premium interior primers for each surface type:

**Drywall**

**VINYLASTIC® Premium** is a water-based sealer that offers excellent sealing qualities on new drywall and dries fast for same-day finishing.

**Stain Blocking**

**BLOCK-IT® Premium** is a high-hiding, ultra-low VOC waterborne alkyd primer for use on a variety of previously painted or new interior and exterior surfaces.

**Multi-Purpose**

**ULTRA-GRIP® Premium** is an acrylic multi-purpose primer that provides superior adhesion, outstanding stain-blocking, excellent enamel holdout and great hide.

**Undercoater**

**INTER-KOTE® Premium** is an acrylic enamel undercoater that provides excellent hide and sealing qualities for interior wood, hardboard and wallboard.

**Masonry**

**EFF-STOP® Premium** is an epoxy-fortified acrylic latex primer/sealer that provides very good resistance to efflorescence and alkali.

**Metal**

**BLOC-RUST® Premium** is a white alkyd primer that provides excellent corrosion resistance on ferrous metals. Also available as red oxide.

**Block Fillers**

**WB SYN-LUSTRO® Premium** is a 100% acrylic primer that provides excellent corrosion resistance on ferrous and non-ferrous metals.
STEP 3: Estimating the correct amount of paint

You can get a fairly accurate idea of how much paint you’ll need for your project using these simple calculations.

First, measure the dimensions of the wall (Wall A) and multiply by the number of walls with those dimensions:

Wall A: Length: _____ x Height _____ x # of Walls ___ = Total sq. ft.: _______

If you are painting walls of different sizes, measure the next wall (Wall B) and multiply by the number of walls with those dimensions:

Wall B: Width: _____ x Height _____ x # of Walls ___ = Total sq. ft.: _______

Next, add the total square footage of all walls and subtract the area for doors (about 21 sq. ft each) and windows (about 15 sq. ft each):

Total walls (A & B) sq. ft: _____ - Doors & Windows _____ = Total sq. ft.: _______

To determine the number of gallons for one coat coverage, divide total square feet by 400 square feet (approximate coverage for one gallon). Consider buying enough for two finish coats for the truest color and best coverage.

Total sq. ft.: _________ ÷ 400 = Gallons needed for one coat: _________

STEP 4: Buying the right tools & supplies

We’ve created this simple checklist of the tools you should have for your interior project:

- Dust mask to protect your lungs from fine particles and paint vapors
- Goggles to protect your eyes
- Sandpaper and sanding block to rough up shiny areas and smooth any rough spots
- Spackle and putty knife for filling small holes
- Caulk and caulk gun to repair cracks in corners and around moldings
- Masking tape and paper to protect glass and fixtures
- Drop cloths to cover floor, carpet, furniture and other areas
- Wall brush for “cutting in” around corners, windows and doors
- Sash brush for painting trim
- Roller cover and frame for painting all of the large, flat surfaces inside your home
- Bucket to mix your paint
- Extension pole to paint those hard-to-reach areas and finish your job faster
- Step ladder to comfortably reach the high areas of the job
- Wiping cloths to clean up any spills
When it comes to painting, proper preparation of the work area and painting surface is important to simplify the project and achieve better results. Clear the area before you begin. If that’s not possible, move large furniture to the center of the room and cover it with plastic sheeting.

Cover the floor with plastic sheeting and, using safe-release painter’s masking tape (usually blue in color), adhere the sheeting to the baseboards around the room’s perimeter. Place a heavier canvas dropcloth atop the plastic to avoid an overly slick surface.

Remove all hardware and anything hanging on the walls, such as electrical plates, cable TV outlets, curtains, art and nails. To cover chandeliers or other fixtures you cannot or do not want to remove, cut plastic sheeting to size and wrap and tape the item.

Prepare the surface to achieve good-looking, long-lasting results. A properly prepared surface is clean, solid and dry, without cracks or imperfections.

Clean the surface of any dirt, dust, wax, grease, oils or other contaminants. Use a mild detergent and water or a commercial wall-cleaning product to clean the walls. Rinse the surface with clean water and allow it to dry.

- Repair, patch and caulk all voids, cracks and holes where necessary. Lightly sand repairs to achieve a smooth, even surface.
- Sand glossy surfaces to provide a roughened surface for good adhesion.
- Remove dust thoroughly before painting.
- Apply the appropriate primer (See Step 2 for product suggestions.)
STEP 6: Painting

Always start at the top of any surface and work your way down. Follow this order when painting:

A. WALLS — Use a brush to paint a 2-inch-wide strip along the ceiling and the floor, and around any woodwork. Use a roller, coming as close to the edges as possible, to create a clean, uniform finish.

Using a brush:

Start by pre-wetting your brush to dampen it before painting to improve the brush’s ability to pick-up and release paint, which also makes brush clean-up easier.

Next, pour your paint into a small bucket.

Hold the brush near the base of the handle and dip the bristles a third of the way into the paint. Tap (don’t wipe) the brush against the inside walls of the bucket.

Paint with enough pressure to bend the bristles slightly. Don’t bear down hard on the brush.

B. WOODWORK — Using a brush, paint all trim around doors, windows, ceilings and floor.

Using a roller:

Start by pre-wetting your roller cover to dampen it before painting to improve the roller cover’s ability to pick-up and release paint.

Move the roller slowly into the paint in the tray, then roll it back and forth until roller cover is evenly coated. Roll onto the tray’s ridges to remove excess paint.

Cover about a 2-square-foot area using the “N” pattern, rolling upward first, to minimize drips.
Water-based paints make cleaning up fast and easy. Clean any spills with a damp cloth before they dry. Clean brushes, rollers and other tools with soap and water.

Please think about our environment

- Try to buy only the amount of paint you’ll need for your project.
- Save small amounts of leftover paint for future touch-ups. To keep the paint fresh for future use, put a layer of plastic wrap over the mouth of the can before replacing the lid securely.
- Cans with completely dried paint residue may be disposed of in ordinary household trash. Leave the lid off the container so the collector can see that the paint has dried.
- NEVER POUR LEFTOVER PAINT DOWN A DRAIN OR INTO A STORM SEWER.

Preventative steps

- Washing dirt from painted walls before it accumulates not only improves appearance, it reduces the chance of the dirt becoming permanently embedded in the paint.
- Make sure to check for dirt periodically and assume it will be present in and near cooking areas (airborne cooking oil) and on areas that are frequently touched.

Use a light touch

- When washing walls or removing stains, do only the minimum amount of cleaning, using the lightest pressure necessary, in order to avoid eroding the paint or creating any shiny spots (burnishing).
- Always use the least aggressive cleaner, such as a mild soap solution, and cleaning process that will remove the dirt or stain.
- Always wet a sponge before use to prevent excessive surface abrasion.

Rinsing

- Always rinse walls sufficiently with warm water. This is an important step, as any cleaning solution residue will attract dust and dirt quickly.

Residual stains

- It is not always possible to wash off all stains (such as permanent markers). These and other stains may bleed or show through when painted.
- If there is any doubt about residual stains, consider applying a high quality, stain-blocking primer, such as BLOCK-IT® Premium or ULTRA-GRIP® Premium before painting.
- If cleaning or other burnishing has left the surface shiny in some areas, the primer will also give a consistent look.

WARNING STATEMENT

CAUTION: Scraping or sanding surfaces of older buildings (especially pre-1978) may release dust containing lead or asbestos. EXPOSURE TO LEAD OR ASBESTOS CAN BE VERY HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment during surface preparation and finish clean-up of any residue by water-washing all surfaces. For more information, see Dunn-Edwards’ brochure on “Surface Preparation Safety” or call EPA’s National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or visit www.epa.gov/lead or www.epa.gov/asbestos, or contact your state or local Health Department.

Please note that these suggestions are provided as a service to you. We are unable to guarantee or be responsible for the results obtained by these procedures.

If you have additional questions, please ask any of our expert sales associates.
For more information, additional how-to guides may be found in-store and online at dunnedwards.com.