



Paint Like a PRO

Are you thinking that a new coat of paint will spruce up those tired-looking walls? A successful paint job is all in the preparation. Follow these tips to make the work go smoothly.

Tools of the trade

You'll need to gather the right tools for the job. You should have: an old sheet or tarp, rollers and extension pole, angled brush for edges, paint trays, painter's tape, gloves, stepladder, paint and primer, medium-grit sandpaper, Spackle and caulking, and a paint scraper.

Wall preparation

Getting your walls ready to paint is the most important step. Remove all nails and hooks.

Take off switch and outlet covers. Tape the screws to the back of the covers so you don't lose them.

Wash walls with a mild, soapy solution or with TSP (Trisodium Phosphate). Scrape off any old flaking paint and smooth the area with medium-grit sandpaper. Patch any holes or cracks with Spackle and sand smooth. Re-caulk any cracks along baseboards or mouldings. Spot prime over any sanded areas.

Priming

If the walls are prepared properly and if you're using good-quality paint, then there is no need to prime the entire room. Priming is recommended if you are painting a lighter colour over a darker one. If using a darker colour, priming first with a tinted primer will help ensure colour uniformity.

Quantity

A can (3.7 litres) of paint covers about 400 sq. ft. (37 m²) of wall and ceiling. Multiply the height of the wall by the length to get the calculation. One to two coats will do if the room is well-prepared and you're using good-quality paint.

Technique

If you're painting the walls and ceiling, paint the ceiling first. Go across the width of the room, rather than the length, to ensure a wet edge. That way roller marks will be less obvious when the paint dries.

Walls are next. Using painter's tape, cover anything that borders the walls. Edge the corners, and along the baseboards and the ceiling crease, with an angled brush. Use a roller on the walls for best results. Make sure that the paint is completely dry before removing the tape. 🌟