

THE PRO FILE



HOW TO PAINT LIKE A PRO

Time to get painting! Here's how to get the best results.

BY IAN FERGUSON

Painting is a great way to update your home and give it a new look. All it takes is some courage and the application of time-tested techniques. Start with planning and careful preparation. Then, when you're ready to paint, it is advisable to start from the top of the room and work down, ceiling first, walls second and trim last. That's how to get professional results.

When painting the ceiling, start by brushing around the perimeter. Don't worry about getting paint on the walls as you can cover it easily when applying paint to them later. Next, using a roller, paint from side to side across the shortest distance. If you are painting a large ceiling, divide the area into squares and paint one at a time.

With flat paint the overlap should not show up in the completed job, and usually, one coat will do the trick. Be careful if using latex paint on a stippled ceiling as the water in the paint causes the stipple to dissolve and could result in a

mess. I prefer to use an oil-based paint for the first coat on ceilings with this kind of finish.

Once the ceiling is dry, using a brush, "cut-in" each wall with a 75-mm border. Take your time and you'll be surprised how straight you can paint the lines below the ceiling. If you're a bit nervous about doing this, you can use tape, but I find that this ends up creating more of a mess. Start at one corner and work around the room, painting the ceiling line, the corners, and then across the top of the trim at the bottom of the wall. "Cut-in" the entire room before rolling the walls with the first coat. For the second coat, I prefer cutting and rolling one wall at a time, as it prevents overlap marks on the wall.

When rolling, always maintain a wet edge. I start in a corner and paint a 1-metre-wide strip on the wall. The next time I wet the roller, I start 1 metre away from the painted area and paint back to

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the wet edge to minimize overlap marks.

Paint the trim last. If you're not used to painting, I recommend that you use a low tack tape against the wall to get a tight edge. Try not to get too much paint on the tape, and remove it as soon as possible after the project. There are tools available to edge around a carpet, but it may be just as easy to stuff some newsprint under the trim using a spatula.

Here are some other points to remember:

- **Let it dry** – don't be concerned, paint usually dries darker and will even out.
- **Keep it clean** – remove all spills immediately with a rag. Keep your hands clean at all times as you never know what you'll come into contact with.

■ **Beware of special gadgets** – they work fine if you're an expert – you decide if you are.

■ **Have lots of light** – keep the light source at your back if possible.

When in doubt, the best source of information is the paint can – read the instructions. All of the major paint manufacturers have web sites that can answer most of your questions. The pros at the paint stores can handle the rest.

Good luck and happy painting! 🌟

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