

How to prepare and prime surfaces prior to painting and paint application

Preparation and Priming

Ensure all surfaces are clean, grease-free and dry before painting. In coastal areas it is important to wash off salt deposits. Fill or repair defects in an appropriate manner prior to painting.

Previously Painted Surfaces

- Remove all poor condition paint and treat as for a new surface if required.
- Paint layers in poor condition may be hidden many layers below the surface layer. All paint should be removed down to below any poor paint layer.
- Damp from behind paint causes paint to peel. Identify and fix the source of any damp before painting.
- High gloss paints should be sanded down to a lower gloss level and then washed.
- Apply a Universal Undercoat over existing oil based paints and oil based varnishes.
- Pressure clean chalky or powdery surfaces. If a slight powdery nature remains then apply a Bonding Liquid prior to painting.

Some of our paints are made with specific Super Adhesion technology. All our other paints that don't specifically state "Super Adhesion" can be regarded as "Normal" (from a preparation and priming perspective).

New Surfaces (Normal Paints)

Cement, Cement Plaster and Concrete: Apply a Plaster Primer.

Ceiling Board, Masonite Board and similar: Apply a Plaster Primer.

Skims and Fillers: Apply a Plaster Primer or Bonding Liquid.

Galvanised Steel: Wash with Galvanised Iron Cleaner and rinse. A water-break free surface should be obtained. Then apply a Galvanised Iron Primer.

Other Metals: Apply a water based metal primer suitable for the specific type of metal.

PVC Gutters and Downpipes: Sand to a rough finish to enhance the adhesion of applied paint.

Melamine, Bathroom Tiles etc.: Apply a primer suitable for the specific surface type.

Exterior Wood: Apply a Wood Primer followed by Universal Undercoat. This is usually not required for interior wood.

New Surfaces (Super Adhesion Paints)

Paints labelled "Super Adhesion" can be applied directly to the following surfaces:

Masonry, plastics, melamine, resins, wall tiles, non-corroding metals, ridged rubber, fabrics and interior wood.

- Suitable metals include aluminium, galvanized steel, stainless steel, bronze, brass etc.
- Galvanised steel should be wash with Galvanised Iron Cleaner and rinse. A water-break free surface should be obtained.
- Sand plastics with a fine grit sand paper to enhance adhesion of applied paint.
- Do not paint these paints onto high gloss wall tiles.
- Leather may be finished with a large variety of products. Degrease leather with isopropyl alcohol (also called rubbing alcohol and used in many hand sanitizers). If this does not remove all wax, oil, coatings etc then you need to lightly sand the leather. Thin the paint with our Airbrush Medium so that the paint is absorbed into the leather. Apply 2-4 coats as required. We cannot guarantee adhesion and flexibility on all types of leather in all applications.

Requirements of Specific Paint Types

- Our Glow-in-the-dark Paints should be painted onto a white background.
- Our Photochromic Paints should be painted onto a white background.
- Our Soft Pastel Metallic Paints should be painted onto a white background.
- Our Colour Transition Paints are usually painted onto a black background although some can work well over other colours (see details for each colour).

- Our Interference Metallic Paints are usually painted onto a black or grey background. They give the strongest colour when painted over black and the weakest colour when painted over white.
- Our Bright Neon UV Paints and Invisible UV Paints are for interior use. They can be used for short-term exterior use but their colours or effects will fade in sunlight.
- Reflective Paint must be painted over the colour that you want to be visible in normal light. For this reason we sell these paints as a Base Coat / Top Coat combination.

Application

Normal painting

- Apply only to surfaces that have been correctly prepared and primed.
- Follow any specific instructions given on the other container labels.
- Before use, stir with a flat paddle until the paint feels uniform.
- Apply two coats with a good quality brush, roller or airless spray. If you want to reduce brush marks then we recommend thinning the paint with our Acrylic Flow Control Medium.
- Many of our paints can also be air-sprayed but thinning is required. For air spraying we recommend thinning the paint with our Acrylic Air Spray Medium but a fairly large nozzle size will be required and some paints have large pigments that may block spray gun filters.
- Air temperature should be 6 to 30°C during painting and for a few hours after painting. Do not apply onto hot surfaces. Avoid painting shortly before sharp temperature drops e.g. winter afternoons.
- Unless otherwise stated the normal spread rate is 10-12m² / litre.
- Wash up spills and equipment immediately with water.
- For normal application allow 2 hours between coats, 6 hours before rain and 10 days before washing or scrubbing the paint.
- Store in a cool area with lid sealed. Do not allow the paint to freeze.

Application of Metallic & Colour Transition Paints

Correct application is very important.

With these paints the following painting techniques should be applied.

For smaller brush painted items use a soft brush in one direction only.

Painting walls and larger surfaces with a roller:

- Start at one corner or edge and always keep a wet paint edge.
- Use two painters, one for cutting-in and one with a high quality roller.
- Only move the roller directly up and down (not sideways).
- The roller must go over as much of the cutting-in as possible while the cutting-in is still wet.
- The final roller movement on every section must always be downward (not up) so that the pigments are always aligned in the same direction.
- Do the same on each roller-width vertical section with an overlap.
- Do not go back and try to touch up partly dried areas. Wait for 2 hours (the paint must feel completely dry) and then apply another coat.

Air Spraying

- Air spraying of these paints requires dilution. You can dilute with 14% water (140g water per litre of paint) or you can dilute with our Acrylic Spray Medium which enhances adhesion to most surface types.
- A fairly large nozzle size will be required and some paints have large pigments that may block spray gun filters.

Caution

- Our water based technology is far more environment and health friendly than oil/solvent base paint technology. Our paints are all non-flammable. Nevertheless standard industry guidelines apply:
- Keep out of reach of children.
- Use only in well ventilated areas.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while painting.
- Do not ingest paint.
- Avoid eye contact. In the event of eye contact wash well. Contact a physician if irritation remains.