

Paint and Wallpaper Home Repair and Improvement



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Almost everyone has painted at least a room in Iris home-and finished the job a bit dissatisfied, convinced there must be ways to make the work go faster and easier while simultaneously producing a better result. There are such ways. Every trade has its tricks, and painting is no exception. If you know them, you will be able to save yourself time and effort and do the job right, t

A painter s craft is not merely a matter of procedures and techniques. It begins with an understanding of what point is and how it

works. The coating that you put on your house ceates a tough film that 1) bonds itself to either a fresh, new surface or an old, uneven one; 2) covers and helps to protect that surface against the assaults of weather, airborne chemicals and dirt; and 3) remains flexible enough to stay intact for years while the walls settle, vibrate, and expand and contract with changes in temperature. The coating that accomplishes all of this is only about five thousandths of an inch thick -just a little thicker than a page of this book.

Almost any liquid that dries into such a coat for a surface can be considered a paint and an astonishing variety of materials have gone into these mixtures. In India, boiled rice was used to bind paint together; milk and lime have been principal ingredients in popular coatings; and there are some modern paints that consist essentially of colored cement or dissolved rubber. But/most Of the paints in common use contain certain types of ingredients, each with a specific function. Substances called pigments, made from minute particles of earth, metals or chemical compounds, give paint its color (varnishes, being colorless, are unpigmented paint). The ability to form a thin, tough film comes from ingredients called resins, often known as binders. These resins were originally the natural secretions of certain plants and insects, but now consist mostly of man-made chemicals plastics-such as alkyds, acrylics, polyvinyls or urethanes. Chemical agents called plasticizers keep the paint elastic after it dries. And to make the mixture of pigment, resin and plasticizer thin enough to be used with a brush or roller, it is combined with a solvent that may be water, a mineral spirit such as benzine or a plant derivative such as turpentine.

No one paint is right for every surface-and no paint of any kind will work well if you use the wrong tools to prepare the surface or apply the paint. The chart on pages 8 and 9 matches both interior and exterior paints to almost any surface that you are likely to encounter; on pages 18-19 and 54-55 you will find pictures and descriptions of all the tools you will need for any painting job. The remainder of this chapter deals with the specific problems and the techniques of interior painting.

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