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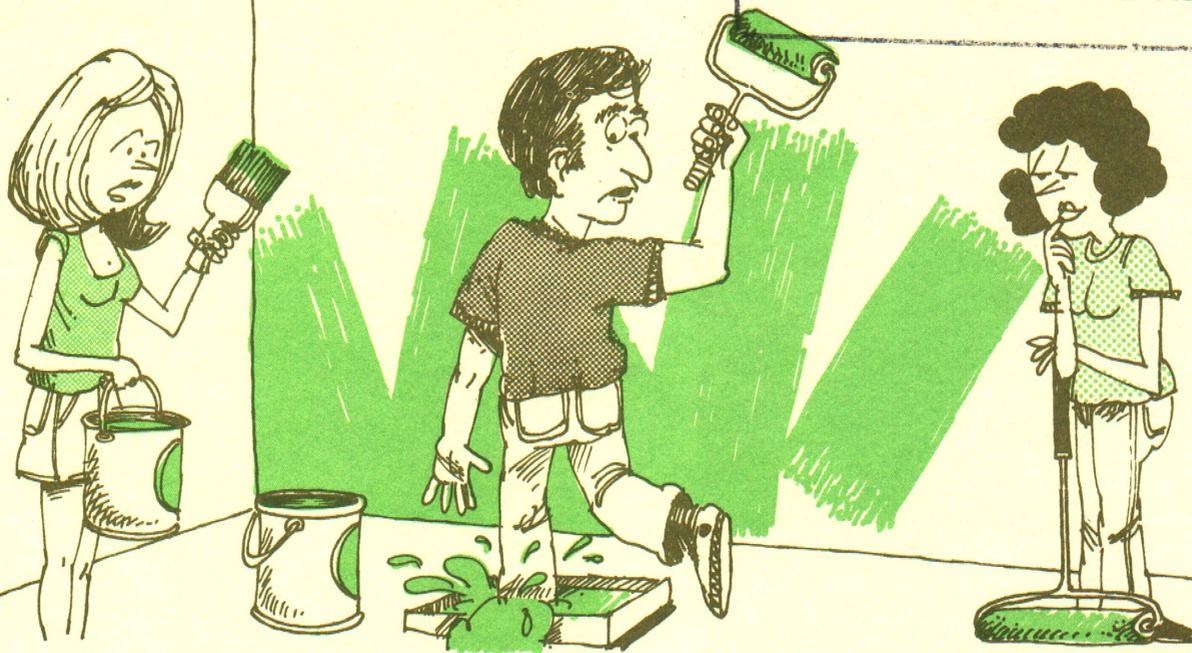
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Painting Room Walls
Michigan State University
Cooperative Extension Service
Home and Family Series
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PAINING ROOM WALLS

EXTENSION BULLETIN 688 A-B

HOME AND FAMILY SERIES

NOVEMBER 1970

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In consultation with Owen McDougal, Calkins Paint Co.

Painting room walls is an easy and inexpensive way to improve the appearance of your home. By painting room walls, you can:

- * make dark rooms lighter and more cheerful.
- * make small rooms look larger and more roomy.
- * make rooms look cleaner.
- * make rooms easier to keep clean.

Choosing a Color

Walls make up the largest color area in a room, so the color of paint you choose is important to the overall appearance of the room.

1. Choose a color you like and want to live with.

Yellows, reds, oranges and yellow-oranges and yellow greens are usually **WARM** and **LIVELY** in feeling.

Blues, greens, violets and blue-greens are usually **COOL** and **QUIET**.

2. Choose colors that are SOFT and LIGHT for walls and ceilings because:

They are easy on the eyes. ✖ They make rooms look larger.

They make rooms lighter. ✖ They make rooms look cheerful.

3. Use the same color for walls and woodwork. When the woodwork around doors, windows and floors is painted the same color as the walls, the rooms seems:

less broken up. ✖ larger. ✖ more restful.

Choosing a Paint

There are many kinds of paint available in stores today. Two kinds are best for room walls:

ALKYD — oil-base paints

LATEX — water-base paints

CHOOSE ALKYD OIL-BASE PAINT — IF

You want a paint that:

1. is easy to put on.
2. is tough to chips or mars.
3. can be scrubbed.
4. does the best job of covering wall imperfections.
5. covers the most wall space per gallon.
6. is low in cost and high in performance.

Even though:

1. It is sometimes hard to find in stores.
2. It dries slowly.
3. It is hard to touch up.
4. It must be thinned with mineral spirits.
5. Brushes must be cleaned with mineral spirits.

Alkyd and latex paints come in many different colors. Most colors will cover a wall with one coat unless the wall is very dark. If the color you choose requires mixing, have the paints mixed at the store.

Alkyd and latex paints come in **FLAT** or **SEMI-GLOSS** finishes.

Choose flat finishes for ceilings, bedrooms and living rooms.

Choose semi-gloss finishes for kitchens, bathrooms and other rooms that are cleaned often.

HOW MUCH PAINT TO BUY

One gallon of paint will usually cover the walls and ceiling of an 11 foot x 12 foot room with

one coat. If your room is larger than this, the paint dealer can tell you how much paint you will need if you tell him:

- * the distance in feet around room (length and width).
- * the number of doors and windows in room.

GETTING WALLS READY TO PAINT

Walls should be clean and smooth before painting. You can paint over papered or painted walls if they are in good condition. Use latex paint over papered walls, because alkyd paint soaks through paper and makes it difficult to remove in the future.

TO PAINT OVER PAPERED WALLS

1. Repaste loose edges and sand edges smooth with fine sandpaper.
2. Dust walls with dry mop, clean cloth, or vacuum.
3. To remove grease spots, apply a paste of cornstarch and a non-flammable cleaning fluid. Let dry; brush off. Repeat if necessary.

TO PAINT OVER PAINTED WALLS

1. Scrape off loose flakes of peeling paint.
2. Patch cracks and nail holes with a spackling compound.
3. Sand patched and scraped spots until smooth.
4. If the old paint has a glossy (shiny) finish, sand the surface lightly so the new paint will "take". Or, scrub with a strong detergent.
5. Dust walls with dry mop or clean cloth.
6. Remove dirt and grease by washing with a detergent solution. Start at the BOTTOM and wash up—this prevents streaking, which is hard to remove.
7. Paint over patched areas and let dry.

Painting the Walls

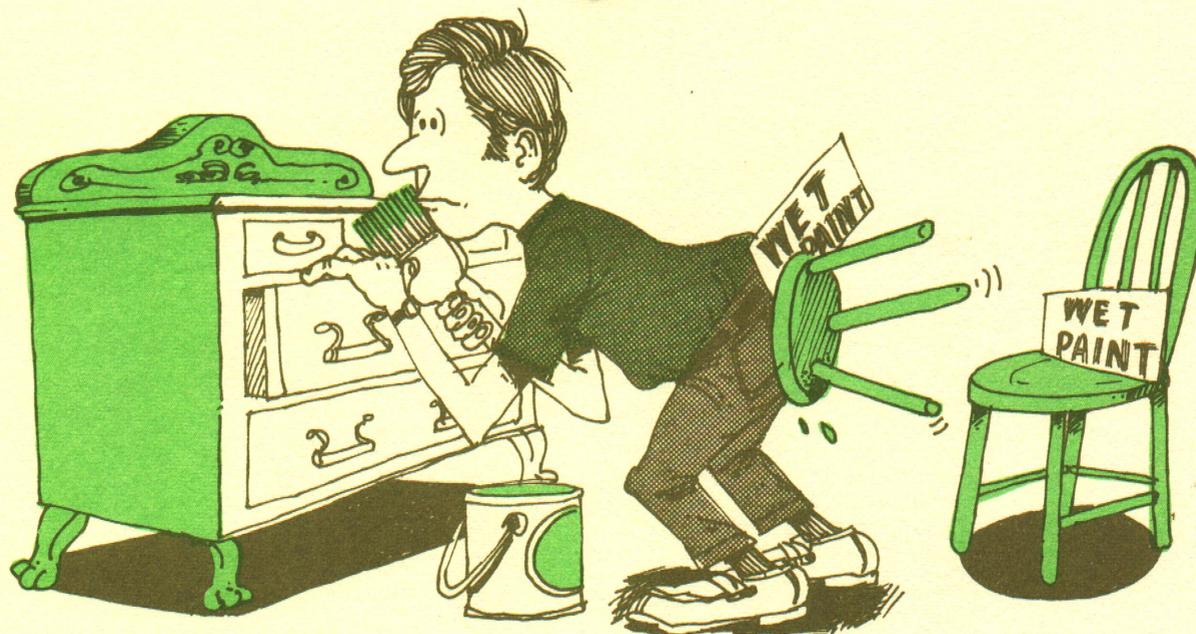
Move furniture away from walls to center of room. Place newspaper on floor around walls. Open window and door for fresh air. Wash up paint spills right away. Paint ceiling first, then woodwork and window trim. Paint walls last.

IF YOU PAINT WITH A BRUSH

1. You will need:
 - 1 3½- or 4-inch nylon brush (flagged and tipped) for walls.
 - 1 2-inch nylon brush (flagged and tipped) for woodwork and window trim.
2. Dip brush into paint. Try not to get brush handle wet.
3. Start in one corner. Paint a strip of wall next to ceiling and woodwork for 2 to 3 feet.
4. Then paint a 2- to 3-foot wide area of wall from top to bottom, brushing freely in all directions. Finish with brush strokes in an up-and-down direction.
5. Work around room in sections, painting strips next to ceiling and woodwork first, then painting wall section. Always work from dry area into wet area.

IF YOU PAINT WITH A ROLLER

1. You will need:
 - 1 9-inch roller with medium nap cover for walls.
 - 1 large paint tray, to hold paint.
 - 1 2-inch nylon brush (flagged and tipped) for woodwork and window trim.
2. Start in one corner. Using brush, paint a strip of wall next to ceiling and along bottom of wall next to woodwork for 2 to 3 feet.
3. Pour a small amount of paint into tray and load roller generously with paint.
4. Using roller, paint a large "V" or "W" in a 2 to 3 foot wide area of wall. Then roll crosswise to spread paint evenly; finish with light up-and-down strokes.
5. Work around the room in sections. First paint strips next to ceiling and woodwork with brush; then paint wall sections with roller. Always work from dry area into wet area.



PAINTING WOOD FURNITURE

A painted finish gives protection and color to new unfinished wood furniture and renews the appearance of used furniture.

IF . . . you want a good serviceable paint finish,

BUT . . . you are short on time, know-how, tools and money,

THEN . . . the directions in this leaflet are for you.

Materials you will need

To paint a 3-drawer chest you will need:

HOW MUCH?	OF WHAT?	FOR WHAT USE?
Several sheets	Extra fine sandpaper (production type)	Smoothing wood
1 or 2	Clean dry cloths	Dusting
1	1½-inch or 2-inch nylon brush (flagged and tipped)	Painting
1 pint	Enamel paint (satin, semi-gloss or high-gloss)	Painting
1 quart	Mineral spirits	Thinning paint and cleaning brush
2	Clean, dry jars or cans with lids	Mixing paint and cleaning brush

Painting new, unfinished wood furniture

STEP 1 — Smooth it

Most new unfinished wood furniture comes ready to paint.

1. Smooth any rough spots with extra fine sandpaper. Sand with the wood grain in smooth, even strokes away from the body.
2. Wipe away dust with clean, dry cloth, or vacuum.

STEP 2 — Paint it

Enamel paint is best for wood furniture because it gives a finish that is tough, durable, hard to chip or scratch, and easy to care for. There are satin, semi-gloss and high-gloss enamel paints. Whichever one you use **REMEMBER:** several light coats will wear longer than one heavy coat.

If You Use SATIN or SEMI-GLOSS Enamel Paint:

1. **FIRST COAT** — Stir paint gently. Brush on a light coat of paint as it comes from can.* First brush in all directions; then brush in direction of wood grain. Let dry overnight.
2. **SECOND COAT** — Smooth painted wood lightly using extra-fine sandpaper. Wipe away dust with clean, dry cloth. Brush on another light coat of paint, brushing in direction of wood grain. Let dry overnight.
3. **TOP COAT** — Smooth painted wood again using extra fine sandpaper. Wipe away dust. Brush on last coat of paint using smooth even strokes. When dry, furniture is ready to use.

If You Use HIGH-GLOSS Enamel Paint:

1. **FIRST COAT** — Pour small amount of paint into clean jar; thin slightly with mineral spirits. Brush on light coat of paint first — in all directions; then — in direction of wood grain. Let dry overnight.
2. **SECOND COAT** — Smooth painted wood with extra fine sandpaper. Wipe away dust with clean cloth. Brush on another light coat of thinned paint, brushing in direction of wood grain. Let dry overnight.
3. **TOP COAT** — Smooth painted wood again using extra-fine sandpaper. Wipe away dust. Brush on top coat of paint — as it comes from can — using smooth, even strokes. When dry, furniture is ready to use.

** in cool weather, it is best to thin paint slightly with mineral spirits.*

Painting used wood furniture

Used wood furniture that is already finished can be renewed with enamel paint. If the finish is smooth, not chipped or cracked, and is not too thick, a new coat of paint may be put on over it.

STEP 1 — Clean it

Dirt and old wax must be removed from used wood furniture before painting so the paint will “take”. Use the following methods:

If the Wood is Painted:

1. Clean small area at a time using damp (not wet) cloth and mild soap. Remove soap film with damp cloth.
2. Rub dry with soft, dry cloth.

If the Wood is Not Painted:

1. Clean small area at a time using a cloth dampened with mineral spirits.
2. Rub dry with a soft, dry cloth.

STEP 2 — Smooth it

1. Sand slick finished and painted surfaces with extra fine sandpaper.
2. Wipe away dust with clean, dry cloth, or vacuum.

STEP 3 — Paint it

Follow STEP 2 — Painting New, Unfinished Wood Furniture.

CLEANING BRUSH

Clean brush carefully after each use.

1. Pour some mineral spirits into clean, dry jar or can.
2. Press brush into liquid to remove paint. Cap jar and save liquid.
3. Repeat with fresh mineral spirits.
4. Squeeze liquid from brush and wrap in paper.

CAUTION — PAINTS AND MINERAL SPIRITS WILL BURN

Work in open space away from fire. Destroy rags soaked with paint or mineral spirits, or keep in capped jar. Keep materials out of the reach of children.

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