

Tips and Advice

7 Steps to the Perfect Home

Every project can turn into a piece of art with a little help! And Duracoat, together with our colour expert Kate Smith are here to give you just that!

With this mini course made up of 7 steps, you can turn any interior design project into something more. Through these steps, we'll help you discover the colours and styles that you really love, with tips on how to keep a record of them. We will also help you understand the space that you're working with better and help you on how to choose the colour scheme that will work for you.

Another thing you will learn is how colour and style fit into emotions and how you can pick the scheme that will go with the mood you want! Also, you learn which areas of your home should be given more attention and to step away from monotony, you'll get an introduction into the glamorous world of textured finishes, exploring them and anything else that you'll need to know! Finally, we will end the steps with little dos and don'ts for you to keep in mind! Subscribe to full 7 steps now and get started on your décor project!

Where do I start?

Prepare the Surface...the Rest Is Easy!

The manner in which we prepare a surface greatly affects the outcome of the job at hand, whether it's on a new or repainted surface. In order to ensure durability of your surface, preparation and repair are important factors to consider.

Examine the area you want to paint, repair any imperfections such as nail stains, faded or peeling paint etc. Make sure your surfaces are clean, dry and free from dust.

Cement Plaster Surface

Damp Surfaces

Wet or damp surfaces should be handled with care as they are liable to chemical attack from alkalis. Oil paint applied to damp surfaces will not adhere and may blister or peel. Therefore initial decoration should be confined to emulsion paints which are porous and allow the breathing process to continue.

Alkaline salts contained in the building fabric can be brought to the surface during the drying out process and then form a crystalline deposit, known as efflorescence. All surface deposits should be

regularly removed by dry brushing and, ideally paint should not be applied until all efflorescence stops.

Dry Surfaces

Usually no complications are experienced when decorative paint systems are applied to dry surfaces. The general recommendation is to scrape off excess plaster, sand paper lightly and commence paint application.

Steel-float Finish and Lime Plaster

Remove all efflorescence and loose material. Dust off. Fill small cracks and imperfections with Supafix Crack Filler, sandpaper down and dust off. Allow surface to become reasonably dry before applying emulsion paints. Surface must be completely dry before oil-paint is applied.

Cement Rendered Surfaces - Fair-faced & Precast Concrete

Remove dust, efflorescence and loose material with stiff brushes. Scrape off dry cement splashes. Large cracks and imperfections should be filled (by the main building contractor) with sand/cement mixture. On interior surfaces minor cracks in fair-faced and precast surfaces can be filled with Supafix Crack Filler. Allow the surface to become reasonably dry before applying emulsion paint and completely dry before oil paints are applied.

Textured Finish - Cement Bagwashed Surfaces

Brush down with stiff fibre brushes to remove any loose material and dust off. If surfaces are found to be patchy in appearance and porosity, the application of a clear sealer should be considered if a uniform paint finish is to be obtained.

Wood Work Surface Preparation

Softwood

Surface preparation of wooden surfaces is vital as it ensures good long-lasting adhesion. Ensure the wood is dry. Prime all joints, tenons, tongues, grooves and meeting surfaces during assembly to prevent subsequent absorption of moisture if the joints etc. open after decoration. Sandpaper smooth and finely round-off sharp edges. Dust off, treat all knots and resinous parts with wood primer and allow to harden thoroughly. Large and resinous knots should be cut out, plugged and planed to produce a smooth surface. The primer should be applied liberally and brushed well into the surface. Pay particular attention to end grain. Very porous end grain should be treated with a second application to prevent moisture penetration.

Hardwood

Sandpaper smooth and finely round off sharp edges. Dust off. Oily timber should be thoroughly wiped clean with a cloth dipped in white spirit and allowed to dry. Primers should be applied liberally and brushed well into the surface. Pay particular attention to end grain to prevent moisture penetration.

Plywood

Ensure the plywood is dry. Thoroughly sandpaper and dust off. The primer should be applied liberally and brushed well into the surface in the direction of the grain. To obtain a smooth and high-class finish the grain, pores and imperfections of the plywood should be filled with an oil-based wood filler. Rub down with fine abrasive paper and dust off prior to painting.

Metal Surface

Different types of metals demand different systems in preparing the surface coating for protection and decoration.

Iron and Structural Steel Work

In major construction such as power stations, bridges, chemical plants, industrial buildings etc. steel is used and needs adequate protection against corrosion, by a paint system. The performance and the protection provided by the paint system specified is dependent on the standard or surface preparation, the best of which is considered to be blast cleaning. This, of course, is only normally economical if carried out at the steel fabricator's works.

On site, less efficient methods are often used, consisting of perhaps chipping, scraping and wire brushing, or the use of percussion needle pistols or on small areas, flame cleaning with oxyacetylene burners where it is decided to use blast cleaning. The metal should not be left exposed but must be coated with a holding primer immediately or within one hour of cleaning. Ensure the relative humidity is not above 80% before priming.

Priming Metal Surface

The correct choice of primer is essential. The following table indicates the recommended primer/primers for various surfaces, taking into consideration the conditions and requirements. It is vital that the correct primer be used on the correct metal substrate, considering the conditions and requirements of every substrate.

Wall and Ceiling Boards

Different types of metals demand different systems in preparing the surface coating for protection and decoration.

Softboard

Brush down to remove loose material. Ensure that the surface is completely clean and dry. Prime metal fixings with the appropriate metal primer (Duracoat Zinc Phosphate Primer is recommended for galvanised iron fixings).

Priming Metal Surface

Sand down to smooth surface where necessary and dust off. Prime metal fixings with the appropriate metal primer (Duracoat Zinc Phosphate Primer is recommended for coating galvanised iron fixings). All nail holes should be filled once the primer is dry. Ensure the boards are dry at the time of painting.

Chipboard

Dust off and ensure the surface is completely dry prior to painting.

Expanded Polystyrene Tiles and Sheeting

Lightly brush down to remove surface dust prior to painting.

Note: Where dampness may gain access to the back of wall boards and ceiling boards, the backs and edges should also be painted.

Previously Painted Surfaces

Clean down thoroughly to remove all dust, dirt and deposits and ensure the surface is dry before re-painting. Any loose and flaking material must be completely removed if satisfactory adhesion is to be obtained. Underbound, powdery surfaces, after thorough preparation, should be sealed with Duracoat Penetrating Primer before re-painting.

Ensure the correct primer is used on the right substrate.

What safety measures should I apply?

Safety Always Comes First

Always have in place the highest safety precautions to ensure everything runs smoothly. The general advice whenever using paint products is wear:

- cap or helmet
- overall or dust-coat
- hand gloves (rubber)
- goggles
- breathing mask

For safety reasons, it is important that certain precautions are observed while painting as some of the chemicals used in manufacturing paints can be harmful.

Hazards

Inflammability

Most chemicals are flammable, some more so than others. The temperatures at which some chemicals will ignite if exposed to a naked flame are so low that it's almost spontaneous. There should be no exposure of a naked flame, such as cigarette smoking or grinding machine which generates live sparks, while dealing with paints. This applies to both water-based and oil-based paints.

Breathing

In some cases, nicotine gas from tobacco will react with certain chemical fumes to form a toxic gas that is harmful to human body.

Skin Contact

Contact with bare skin and eyes could be harmful as some of the chemicals in paints are corrosive, can cause itching and could lead to dermatitis (skin ailment).

Swallowing

Some chemicals, particularly industrial alcohols, and especially solvents can cause blindness if swallowed.

Remedial Attention

Head

Protect your head by wearing a cap or helmet while painting.

Eyes

Wear goggles to protect your eyes.

Nose and Mouth

Wear a breathing mask to avoid inhalation of toxic fumes.

Body and Clothes

Wear overalls or a dust-coat.

Hands

Wear rubber gloves while handling paint or other corrosive materials.

Feet

Wear protective boots, to protect your feet and toes.

Height

If painting areas well above reach, use an appropriate ladder that is well secured.

Chemical Activity

Inflammability

Paints are flammable; never smoke while painting or have a naked flame or live sparks in the painting area.

Fresh Air

Open all shutters/windows while painting. If painting in an enclosed environment like inside a tank, wear a breathing mask.

Swallowing

If paint or a related chemical is accidentally swallowed, induce vomiting and seek medical attention immediately.

Skin Contact

Most decorative water-based or oil-based paints can be washed off the hands with water and domestic or industrial detergents. If your hand are itchy, wash with plenty of fresh water and apply skin lotion.

Seek medical attention if situation persists.

Eyes Contact

Eyes are exceptionally sensitive and any contact with paint should be referred to a medical practitioner as soon as possible.

What tools should I use?

Every product has its designated role and to ensure the best possible results, you have to use the right tool for each job.

Decoratives

Products - Duracoat emulsions, Duracoat glosses, undercoats, primers for wood and metal, roof and floor paints, wood finishes and lacquers.

- Application - Brush, roller or spray.
- Apparel - Overalls, gloves, and breathing masks if spraying.

Specialised Products

Products - Road markings, two-pack epoxies, etching solutions, rust remover, paint removers, chlorinated rubbers, aluminium silver metallic, hydrocarbon glues.

- Application – Brush, roller, spray.
- Apparel - Dustcoats or overalls, hand gloves, breathing masks, and goggles.

Automotives

Products - Nitrocellulose, fast-drys, and two-pack acrylics.

- Application – Spraying
- Apparel – Dustcoats or overalls, hand gloves, breathing masks, and goggles.

How do I get the best results?

A Guide to Optimum Results

These simple tips will help you ensure you get the satisfactory paint job you need and leave a room or house with a smile, assured and happy that it was a job well done.

Health Precautions

During the execution of painters' work the contractor is held responsible for taking all precautions necessary for the health and safety of his workmen including wet rubbing down of paintwork, provision of washing facilities etc. The sub-contractor is to comply with any statutory rules and orders or regulations affecting the procedure followed on any site.

Samples

Samples of all or any of the materials shall be taken by the architect's representative as desired. The samples shall be taken from the sealed or open container or from the workmen's kettles on site as may be directed by the architect. Any of the materials found not to fulfil the requirements of the specifications shall be removed and the work re-done as directed by the architect at the contractor's expense.

Workmen

Skilled workmen are to be employed, except apprentices and labourers. A properly qualified foreman is to be constantly on the job while the work is proceeding.

Paints

Quality paints suitable either for exterior or interior work shall be used. All paint is to be delivered to the site in maker's sealed containers and is to be clearly marked with maker's name or trademark and a description of the contents and colour. All materials are to be stored at site in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and to the satisfaction of the architect.

The type of paints to be used, the number of coats to be applied and any special process or treatment required shall be as specified herein and in the separate painting schedule. All undercoating and finishings used on the same work are to be supplied by one manufacturer and are to be those recommended by the manufacturer for use together.

Some of the colours of undercoats are to approximate those of the finishing. Where directed by the architect, the contractor is to prepare panels showing the colour finishing schemes proposed for the work, for final approval by the architect.

All brushes, tools, pots or kettles used in carrying out the work shall be clean and free from foreign matter and are to be thoroughly cleaned out before being used for a different type of colour or material.

Before painting, lacquering, varnishing or enamelling, every possible precaution must be taken to keep down construction dust.

An ample supply of clean dust-sheets to protect the work during its progress is to be at hand.

No dilution of painting materials shall be allowed except strictly as detailed by the manufacturer's directions or by special permission of the architect. The work shall be carried out strictly in accordance with British Standard CP 231 and relevant British or other recognised Standard Specifications.

Preparation

All materials are to be thoroughly stirred and mixed when the containers are opened and when transferring to painters' kettles. Where necessary the paints are to be strained to remove all skin before application. All containers shall be kept securely covered with tight fitting lids when not in use.

FAQs

I'm done with painting. What next?

Post-Painting Tips

- Wipe out paint spills immediately with cold water or mineral turpentine oil and wipe with a clean cloth.
- Cover furniture, chandeliers, and any other material with polythene paper to avoid damage.
- If paint spills and dries up on a surface, soak the drip with water, mineral turpentine, xylene or diluted detergent solution, then after a few minutes scrap away while taking care not to damage the floor or surface.
- If paint spills on wood finishes, clean by soaking with thinner then wipe out with a clean cloth.

Cleaning of Articles/ Substrates

- When re-coating a painted or polished wood surface, apply paint remover on the surface, then scrape the peeled paint. Clean the surface with thinner to remove traces of paint. Leave overnight then paint afresh.
- When changing colour of the wood, remove the colour with paint remover. However, if the stain has been directly applied to wood, apply the same stain or a darker shade when re-coating.
- When cleaning drips of Touchwood, Melamylne and PU paint on wooden floors and tiles, remove the entire film and re-coat. If the paint has penetrated the floor, scrape gently, sand with emery paper No. 180 and continue with application.
- Drip marks on the floor or tiles can be removed by carefully scraping with a putty knife or scraper. However, mask the area near the coating surface.
- Clean wax drips by carefully scraping up as much solid wax as possible. Place a freezer bag of ice cubes on the spot for several minutes then use a butter knife to scrape off additional residue. Alternatively, use a hair dryer to soften the material and scrape it away or place a very absorbent material like a thick paper towel (or napkin) on the spill and heat it with warm-hot iron. The wax will be liquefied and absorbed into the material.
- Clean water based paint stains on carpets by scraping off paint with a knife, then dab the stain with a sponge mixed with a solution made of a cup of warm water and a spoon of dish detergent. Do not use bleach.
- Clean oil-based paint stains with solvent like mineral turpentine or methylated spirit. Use the same method as for water based paint stains.
- When getting rid of mildew from bathrooms, use an old toothbrush to scrub the mildew from the grout between tiles. For more stubborn stains cover them with a paste of scouring powder that contains bleach, leave for a few hours. Scrub and rinse clean. Make sure your bathroom is airy by opening windows and airing shower curtains after showering.

Things to always keep in mind

As much as painted walls look beautiful, paint has some potential health hazards. Here are some useful dos and don'ts when choosing paint:

DOs:

- Consider using water-based paint instead of oil-based paint. This paint offers excellent performance benefits, is environment friendly and contains very little solvent.
- Always take note of any cautions or potential dangers indicated on the paint can, and take the appropriate preventative action.

- Use protective equipment like eye goggles and face masks to cover the mouth and nose.
- Take precautions when handling and storing solvents.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after use.
- Make sure rooms are well ventilated when painting.

DON'Ts:

- Avoid exposure to solvents as much as you can.
- Never smoke when handling solvents.
- Solvents are highly flammable – never expose solvents to an open flame.
- Keep children away from areas you are painting.

Protecting the Environment

DOs:

- Opt for high quality water-based paints – they are more environment friendly and provide an excellent all-round performance profile.
- Always take care to follow the precautions indicated on the can.
- Buy the exact amount of paint you require to avoid wastage. In case it remains, contact your local authority for guidance on safe paint disposal.
- If you're using your paint later, close the lid tightly to stop air and dust getting in and store in a cool and dry place.
- If you have to clean tools with a solvent, try to re-use the solvent as many times as possible.

DONT's:

- Never pour left-over paint down the drain to prevent blockages.
- Never mix left-over paint with other waste. Paint can be toxic.

Interior Paints

Interior paints have greatly changed from the past to modern day, and houses are now more colourful and reflect the owners' personality much more. Basco Paints has over the years offered a good number of **interior paints** suitable for a variety of surfaces, divided into two: conventional paints and textured finishes.

The conventional finishes include: Duracoat Supergloss, Duracoat Hi-gloss, Duracoat Eggshell, Duracoat Vinyl Silk, Duracoat Vinyl Matt, Duracoat Fragrant Vinyl Silk, Duracoat Fragrant Vinyl Matt, Duracoat Fragrant Soft Satin, Duracoat Ceiling Paint, Duracoat Royale Soft Satin, Duracoat Royale Classic Matt, Duracoat Royale Solid Matt, Duracoat Royale Vinyl Silk Sheen, Duracoat Royale Hi Build Supergloss, Duracoat Smotex and Duracoat Texsilk.

The textured finishes suitable for interiors are, Les Stucs, Les Traditionelles, Renaissance Duotone, San Deco Cometa, San Deco Travertino, San Deco Attracto Gold & Silver, San Deco Glass Plaster, Venezia 24/7 Calcite, Venezia 24/7 Canneraio, Venezia 24/7 Arsenale Venezia 24/7 Antico, Venezia 24/7 Arsenale Classico, Venezia 24/7 Giudecca Metallo, Venezia 24/7 Guideca Crackle, Venezia 24/7 Guideca Classico, Venezia 24/7 Frari, Venezia 24/7 Dorsoduro, Venezia 24/7 Merca Classico and Venezia 24/7 Merca Antico. Also suitable for interiors is the San Marco My Art, San Marco Marco Polo, San Marco Acrisyl, San Marco Marmorino and San Marco Cadoro.

Exterior Paints

Exterior paints have greatly changed from the past to modern day and houses are now more colourful and reflect the owners' personality much more.

Exterior paints are able to withstand high temperatures, rainfall and adverse weather conditions and yet not fade away. This means that they are manufactured with components that allow the paints to last long, while this may not be possible for interior paints which are affected by rain and varied weather conditions. Basco Paints has over the years offered a good number of paints suitable for exterior surfaces, divided into two: conventional paints and textured finishes.

The conventional finishes include: Duracoat Royale Sunproof, Duracoat Royale Outdoor Protector, Duracoat Duraplast, Duracoat Vinyl Matt, Duracoat Real Roc and Duracoat Roof Paint. Among textured finishes, the Venezia 24/7 Calcite is suitable for exteriors as well as interiors.

Apart from paints used on buildings, we also have the Duratherm Range of Thermoplastic Road Marking Paints suitable for tarmac roads, highways and superhighways.

Decorative Paints

Decorative paints for houses are widely available from Basco Paints. The finishes can be either interior or exterior and can be used on a wide variety of surfaces with the popular ones being cement, metal and wood surfaces. Basco Paints boasts of many firsts in **decorative paints** - first to launch the Duracoat Eco-friendly Range, the Duracoat Lead and Chrome Free Range, the Duracoat Anti-Bacterial Range and now the Duracoat Fragrant paints. All these decorative paints are suitable for home owners as well as large projects.

Research and Development is a critical aspect in the product cycle at Basco Paints and constant feedback from the market is sought in the quest to provide relevant products that meet the demand of consumers. In light of this, the Duracoat Eco-friendly range of emulsions was launched in 2011, as well as the Duracoat Anti-Bacterial Paints for use in learning institutions, hospitals, restaurants and even homes.

Less than two decades ago, paint was available in a very limited range of shades and this has slowly increased over the years. Basco Paints prides itself in providing a range of over 7,000 shades which is the largest in the region. This is availed to consumers at over 170 convenient locations countrywide through the Duracoat Colourmania Centres which have Automated Computerized Tinting Systems (ACT) that dispense paint in a matter of minutes.