

Discussion Points

It's easy to get a great paint job - the key is preparation. Sure, it helps to have a steady hand when painting the trim, but you'll get the absolute best results if you take time to scrape off loose paint, fill holes and cracks, and clean surfaces thoroughly before you begin. (fig. A,B)

To clean surfaces, use a solution of TSP (trisodium phosphate). TSP is the old standby when it comes to painting prep work, and it's available in no-rinse varieties to make it easier to use. If you prefer, ask your dealer to recommend a good phosphate-free cleaner.

For the most part, it is wise to use paint rollers for the large areas, brushes for smaller areas, and specialized tools for corners, trim, and so on. Always purchase high-quality brushes and rollers, or you will regret it later.

With rollers, read the package and be sure you buy the proper ones for your application.

Estimating paint

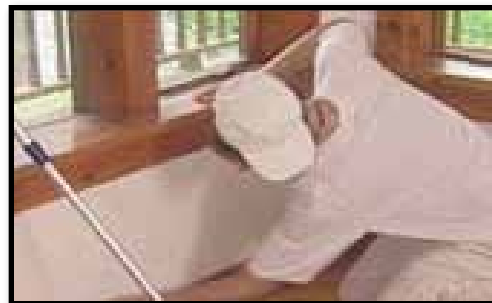
Multiply the perimeter of the room by the height of the walls. This will give you the square-foot area of the walls. For ceilings, multiply the length by the width. A gallon of base coat will cover 350 to 450 square feet. If you figure the square footage and add a little more for touch up, that should do. Always purchase all you need in one order to avoid the trouble of trying to match the color later.

Painting is best done on nice warm days so that paint dries quickly. Remember that sunny spring days can cool off in a hurry, leaving paint gummy.

Wallpaper

The trend in wallpaper today seems to harken back to the old days when you had to paste the back of the paper. Today's wallpaper pastes make application a breeze (or so they say) - just roll the paste on with a paint roller and hang. No watery mess to worry about. But if you like the other method - most wallpapers are pre-pasted - just run it through the wallpaper trough and hang. (fig. C, D)

Wallpapering is best on cool days, as it will be easier to hang and will be less prone to wrinkles and bubbles. If you do get wrinkles and bubbles, use a "smoothing brush" (ask your paint retailer) working from the centre outwards.



A. Clean your walls first.



B. Fill all those little thumbtack holes.



C. Roll the paste on the wallpaper.



D. Applying paper to walls.