

# Advice from Paint Professionals: How to Achieve the Best Painting Results

Whether you are in the process of selling a home, renovating an existing home or just trying a different decorating scheme, painting the walls is one of the least expensive ways to create a new look. The experts at Purdy, a manufacturer of professional painting tools, offer you the following painting tips.

The surface to be painted should always be clean and dry. Any rough spots should be sanded and primed. You should also consider priming if you are painting over wallpaper or a very dark paint color.

## Step One - Cutting In

"Cutting in" is the art of drawing a straight line separating two colors using only the brush — no masking tape or other aid. You often see it at the edge

between a wall and ceiling or when you are painting around a door or window. Cutting in is easy if you use a high-quality paint brush and follow these simple rules:

1. Fully load the brush with paint.
2. Place the brush parallel to the area to be cut, push the bristles against the surface and let the brush open up into a semi oval. Then move it into the line you are cutting. Follow the line until the line of paint begins to break up. Repeat.

If you are not comfortable cutting in with a brush, you can always use special painters tape to ensure you get a straight line.

## Step Two - Painting the Surface

You have two options for painting a substantial surface area; use a large 4-inch to 6-inch flat brush or a 9-inch

roller cover and frame.

If you decide to use a brush, the best way to load a paintbrush is to dip the brush about an inch or two into the paint and then gently tap the brush against both sides of the paint can. Don't wipe the brush against the side of the paint can; it will cause paint to dry up on the brush and the lip of the can, creating dry paint balls that end up in the paint and on the substrate.

First, begin painting along the edges you have cut in. Use short strokes to spread the paint evenly along the border or edge. After you have thoroughly covered an area, use longer strokes to smooth any lines that may have developed. Continue to paint in this manner.

## Using Roller Covers

Most professionals prefer to use roller

covers for large wall surfaces. To load the roller, pour paint into a paint tray or pan. Dip the roller about of the way into the paint and roll it along the grooves of the pan to load. Then, dip the roller half way into the paint and again roll back along the grooves of the pan to load. Repeat this process two more times until the roller is saturated with paint.

Begin rolling the wall by creating a "v" shape. Fill the shape and roll smoothly from top to bottom. If the roller cover was loaded properly, a 9" x 12" roller cover should offer about 6 to 12 square feet of coverage from each dip. Professional painters also use rollers on extension poles to quickly and easily paint walls and ceilings.

If you need to stop in the middle of a project, be sure to complete the wall you are working on to achieve the optimum result.

## Tips on Selling Your Home — From the Inside Out

On the exterior of the home there are plenty of opportunities to make upgrades that help increase the curb appeal of your home, but what about the inside of the house? Once you get people in the door, what will be their first impression?

"First views of the interior set the stage for either a positive or negative selling experience with potential buyers," says Tania Moore of RE/MAX Properties of the Valley in West Virginia. "In today's competitive selling marketplace, owners need to use every option available to them to make their homes stand out. There are obvious things all sellers do, such as cleaning up the clutter and vacuuming. However, every home should have a few eye-popping 'wow' focus items that make potential buyers feel the home is special."

Fortunately for homeowners, the "wow factor" is easy to achieve by adding unique features to the home. Investing in some key focal accents in the home can

make the difference between a "cross off our list" experience for homebuyers and a "must have" memorable visit.

"If I were showing a home that had an interior 'wow factor' I'm confident the sellers would be impressed," says Moore. "One trick to selling a home is to add perceived value and style to the house that would bridge over to the buyer. Decorative millwork and accent highlights are a wonderful, yet inexpensive way to make both a positive first impression and a memorable, lasting impression."

**Tip #1** - Install lightweight urethane ceiling medallions around ceiling fans and chandeliers to add character and warmth to rooms in the home. Available in more than 25 styles from Fypon, these decorative two-piece medallions go up in minutes without removing electrical fixtures. Best of all, the medallions come with a white topcoat so that you can faux finish or paint them to accent any room.

**Tip #2** - Reduce the amount of ornate artwork and window coverings to create an open, airy environment in each room. Let natural sunlight flow through windows to enhance the interior of the home. For a distinctive, yet breezy window treatment, install decorative corbels or brackets on either side of window tops and drape with lightweight fabrics.

**Tip #3** - Surround a fireplace or create an accent wall in a family room using panelized facade brick products in Cabernet Red, Darlington Rose, Manchester Brown or Pearl Grey. Made of recycled gypsum and reinforced with high-density polymer materials, low-maintenance Performance Brick panels replicate the Old World look of hand-made architectural brick and install in a fraction of the time. A "no repeat pattern" assures that your accent wall has a unique, one-of-a-kind appeal. The decorative addition of mortar between the bricks in the panels after installation pro-

vides the authentic look of real brick.

**Tip #4** - Add a garden window above the kitchen sink. The window, which extends outside the home by 17 inches, is engineered to resist moisture and air infiltration. Once installed, grow herbs or starter plants in the window to showcase the versatility of this mini-greenhouse. Simonton Windows offers a garden window featuring a fusion-welded frame and sash, snap-in sill cover to resist water penetration and one-inch double-strength insulating glass. The one-piece unit installs quickly and can be used to showcase small collections or as a cozy, sunny spot for the family cat.

**Tip #5** - Play up your windows inside the home and turn them into pieces of wall art. To accomplish this, add a urethane window panel below a vinyl Single or Double Hung window and then surround the entire window and panel with decorative mouldings and a crosshead.