



Tricks of the Trade

Here are a few tips from a master craftsman with 45 years experience.

Painting

1. Choose the type of paint you need (i.e. low sheen, high gloss etc), then choose your colour. Purchase a sample pot to take home and check the look of your colour against furnishings and the room's natural and artificial light.
2. Measure your walls and calculate the quantity of paint required, allow for additional coats.
3. Equipment – make sure you have; cleaning products, drop cloths, sand paper, scrapers, fillers, paint rollers, extension poles, brushes, a ladder, masking tape, rags, prep-coats, sealers, primers/undercoats and finishing paints.
4. Remove or condense your furniture into the centre of the room and cover with an old sheet or drop cloth. Cover floors with drop sheets and tape up doors, skirting boards, windows and light fixtures.
5. Preparation - wash your walls where necessary for a thoroughly clean surface. Scrape off flaking paint and patch up any holes or cracks. After the patches have dried, sand and clean the areas then apply a coat of sealer or undercoat. Any existing woodwork or trimmings finished in an oil-based paint need to be undercoated with an oil-based undercoat, lastly apply a new water-based paint.
6. Remove picture hooks, door handles, window hardware, light switch plates, power point covers and light fixtures. Place the pieces together in bags and clearly mark the contents and the location from which you took them.
7. Wear old and comfortable clothes and shoes, remove your jewellery.
8. Clean up – remove any excess paint, clean up drips and spills from; windows, tiles, floors or glass with an appropriate scraper. Use a damp rag to clean spills and paint from your hands.
9. Clean all rollers and brushes immediately after use with cleaners, soap or water (see paint can instructions) then dry and store ready for future use.
10. Use a glass jar or small paint can to store excess paint. Label the container with important information; date, colour name and number, where it was purchased and the room where it was used. Excess paint can be used for touch up jobs.