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# HOW TO PAINT INTERIOR TRIMS



YOUR COMPLETE KNOW HOW GUIDE



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# GETTING STARTED



The interior trim gives the room a distinctive outline. It also enhances dimensions and colours within the room.

There are a number of factors to consider prior to and during your painting project. Correct preparations are the key to your project's success. The following steps will help you in achieving a successful, professional outcome. Refer to our Know How brochures *Preparing to Paint*, *Selecting the Right Brush* and *Choosing the Right Paint* to help you get the best results.

## Tools

✓	Utility knife	✓	Dropsheets
✓	Scrub pads	✓	Masking tape
✓	Clean rags	✓	Sugar soap or basol crystals
✓	Sandpaper (80 and 120 grit)	✓	Dust mask, eye protection & rubber gloves
✓	Sanding block	✓	Paintable flexible filler & caulking gun
✓	Hand scrapers	✓	Appropriate sealers, primers & brushes
✓	Hot air gun	✓	

## Preparation

1. Clean the surface well by washing with sugar soap and then clean with fresh water to wash off any residue.
2. Identify existing coating (rub with methylated spirits on a cloth – if the colour rubs off, the coating is acrylic).
3. Sand the surface to achieve good adhesion to the existing coating.
4. Repair any splits, cracks, nail holes, etc. with a filler suitable for the purpose.
5. Sand filler smooth and clean the surface thoroughly to remove any dust or contaminants that will affect the finished coat.

6. Mask the surfaces that you do not want to paint. This will allow smoother lines and reduce the amount of unwanted paint on other surfaces. Use a low/medium adhesive tape for sensitive surfaces such as painted walls and remember to remove as soon as possible.
7. When masking the edge of carpet, use a wider tape to enable greater protection. Push the tape down well onto the edge of the carpet. This will reduce the likelihood of fluff from the carpet adhering to the paint.
8. Prime any bare areas of the surface with the appropriate primer/undercoat.
9. Allow to dry thoroughly before attempting to apply your topcoats.
10. Carefully remove any masking tape once you have finished painting. The longer you leave tape on a surface, the harder it is to remove.

## Painting

- The choice of surface coatings will depend on the substrate to be painted. I.E. for custom wood (MDF) and similar surfaces, an acrylic undercoat/sealer is recommended, whereas pine timber surfaces will require a wood primer (oil or water) to seal the surface.
- Acrylic enamels are easier to use on trim surfaces because of their ease of application. They are touch dry in 30 minutes and the recoat time is 4 hours at 20°C and 65% relative humidity. Two surfaces will not stick together, they are low odour and clean up is easy in water.
- Oil based enamels take longer to dry and will yellow with age. It takes longer to clean brushes and rollers, and the smell will linger for a few days.
- Painting the trim is best done using quality brushes to give the best job possible. Do not use brushes bigger than the size of the trim to be painted.
- Start by cutting in along the edge of the interior trim. Start in one corner and work your way around the room, keeping a wet edge to enable the flow to continue without seeing where you stopped and started.
- Door frames and windows are next to be cut in. Avoid applying too much paint at once as excess paint can seep under masking tape leaving an unsightly mess.
- Finish by painting the skirting boards, again start in a corner following the room around, keeping a wet edge. Spread the paint evenly to avoid a high film build which could create problems later in the paint's life.
- It is advisable to apply two finish coats at the recommended spread rate, following recoat times listed on the can (longer in cooler conditions).
- Avoid knocks to the surfaces for as long as possible. This allows the paint to cure and harden properly. White paint takes up to 7 days to fully harden, while colours can take up to two weeks to fully harden. Avoid cleaning in this time span as well.
- When cleaning surfaces, use a proprietary cleaning spray, following the instructions on the container. Wipe gently using a damp, soft cloth or soft sponge. Never rub the surface as this will cause glossy areas where you rubbed.