

Painting How-To #1:

Select the Right Faux Finish for Your Home.



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How do I pick a faux finish?

These days faux paint finishes for walls are all the rage, and it is no wonder why. Wallpaper is time-consuming to install, difficult and messy to take down, and it cannot be covered nearly as easily as paint. For those who really do not want the task of putting up and taking down wallpaper, a faux paint finish is the ultimate way to cover bare walls. When unsure of which faux paint finish to choose, consider the following facts on faux paint styles and the ultimate results achieved using various finish techniques. A bare wall in need of color and design will look like a million bucks with a faux paint finish, and just for the cost of paint and inexpensive faux finish accessories.

Step 1

Rag Painting. The special effects that can be achieved with paint and a rag are truly amazing, and this is why rag painting is one of the most popular types of faux paint finishes. The effects can be soft and blurred like fine marble or sharp and clearly defined like crushed velvet. Ragging-on involves applying paint to a clean rag and creating random patterns on freshly painted walls. Ragging-off involves applying a coat of paint and using a rag to remove it through various dabbing or wiping techniques. Choose this faux paint finish in an area where the look of marble is desired,

in a contemporary setting, or when decorating with traditional style. Practice before rag painting walls using various materials and ways of applying or removing the paint to achieve the perfect faux paint finish to match any decorating style within your home.

Step 2

Sponge Painting. Another faux paint finish that is very versatile and unique is sponge painting. Choose a sponged faux paint finish if you want a quick and easy way to add color and style to bare walls. A light or dark base coat can be used when sponge painting, and since sponges are available in a wide variety of unique textures, the style and color combinations are endless. Choose sponge painting for spaces with elegant charm to unique contemporary style. With unlimited options for adding color and texture, this faux paint option will work in almost any space.

Step 3

Stippling. Choose stippling if you want a faux paint texture similar to airbrushing. It creates a myriad of dots, and when graduating colors are applied it can result in a highly unique and stunning finish. A light base color is applied and a darker or brighter color

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is stippled over the top with a stiff brush. It will add warmth to a room with cottage style, and drama to a room with contemporary flair. This faux paint finish is ideal with just about any decorating style, and with practice the stylish looks that can be achieved are truly amazing.

Step 4

Combing. If you want a faux paint finish that is defined and dramatic choose a combing technique. A base coat of paint is allowed to dry, and a contrasting color is applied on top. A wide-tooth comb is used to create lines, waves or curves, and this technique can even be used to create a faux wood grain effect. Choose this faux paint finish for areas with styles ranging from cottage to contemporary. With unique color combinations and combing techniques the style options are endless.

Step 5

Color Washing. Choose a color washed faux finish when painting a room decorated with nostalgic, country, or elegant style. It is a soft and exceptionally lovely technique. This cloud-like finish starts with a flat base coat and it is topped with latex paint that has been thinned with water. The top coat is crosshatched with a brush, and sharp edges are brushed into a soft blur. Some of the base coat shows through for a color washed effect that makes a fantastic background for stenciling or a lovely backdrop for traditional works of art.

Step 6

Dragging. Those who want a faux finish for vertical

spaces with high ceilings or traditional architectural flair should choose a dragging technique. This is not one of the easier faux painting techniques, but the results can be dramatic and absolutely stunning. A pale base coat is applied to walls and allowed to dry completely. Then a wide brush is used to apply a darker or brighter top coat. A dragging brush is used to create faint lines that are characteristic of this faux finish. It makes a beautiful background for stenciled designs and works of wall art.

No matter which finish you choose, your walls are sure to be unique. Unlike wallpaper, faux painting provides a one-of-a-kind artistic touch to walls and other vertical spaces. Do not be afraid to give these painting techniques a try. You simply cannot make a mistake, and with a little practice on paper bags, poster board, or scrap pieces of drywall, you will discover the perfect finish that will add style and unique design to the walls in your home. Or if you decide to use a contractor to apply Faux Finishes please don't hesitate to contact Ken Horner at Quality Coated Surfaces. I am confident that I can provide for you a finish you will enjoy for years to come.