

DIY TOP TIP

Painting a room



The key to successfully painting a room is all in the preparation.

Before you start to even pick up a paint brush or roller, you must check to make sure all your walls are sound. Any flaking plaster must be scraped away using a wallpaper scraper or palette knife, and filled with a wall filler (such as Polyfilla). Once you have filled any cracks or holes sand the areas using sandpaper until it feels smooth to touch.

If you have removed wallpaper from the walls, you may need to wash them to remove any old glue and residue left after wallpaper removal.

To make sure you do not damage any of your belongings, try to clear the room you are painting of as much furniture as possible. If you are unable to move the furniture out of the room, move it all into the centre of the room and cover with a dust sheet.

Next, tape any areas where the paint colours may overlap, such as door frames, the edges of windows, around light switches and the edges of skirting boards. You can either use masking or painter's tape to do this job.

Now you are finally ready to paint, and you will need the following items.

- Paint
- A roller or paint pad
- Paint tray
- Paint brushes – the best quality you can afford
- Step ladder to reach high places
- Several wet rags (to wrap brushes when you take a break or to clean up mistakes)

Ceilings

If you are painting the ceiling of the room, do this first, using a roller with an extension pole. This is the quickest and easiest way to cover a large and difficult area to paint.

Next, paint the walls.

Firstly, use a paint brush at least three inches wide to paint all the edges of the room. Put the paint in a small container so that you can carry it around with you easily.

Secondly, pour your paint into a paint tray and, using your roller or paint pad paint, the large areas of the room. As you work, scan the room for any dripping paint that was applied too heavily and wipe away any drips before they dry.

Finally, allow the paint to dry. In some cases you may need to apply a second coat of paint to the walls, and then you are done.

Skirting boards and any other woodwork

Once you have painted the walls remove any masking or painter's tape and paint your woodwork.

The same principles apply in that the woodwork must be sound and well prepared in the same way as you prepared your walls.

You can either use gloss or eggshell paint, dependent on the finish you wish to achieve, to paint your woodwork. You should do this using a good quality brush at least 3 inches wide and, in most cases, one coat should be enough.

When you've finished, you will hopefully have a fantastic looking room, ready to move your furniture back in to and rehang your pictures.

