

THRIFTWOOD

BADGE TRAINING TEAM

Serving the Scout Districts of
Barking and Dagenham, Brentwood, Hornchurch, Romford & Squirrels Heath

Cleaning and Storing your Painting Tools

It is always best to clean your brushes out as soon as you've finished with them. But to keep them fresh for use later in the day with the same paint, wrap them in plastic wrap or aluminum foil. This will exclude the air and prevent them drying for a short time.

Remove excess paint, either by working it out on a piece of newspaper, or by running the edge of a scraper or paint mixing stick along the bristles or down the side of the roller cover.

If You Used A Water-Based Coating...

Wash the brush or roller with warm water and detergent. Detergents with petroleum distillates have more cleaning power.

Rinse out under a running tap or hose. Work them in a bucket of water first, much of the paint build-up can be removed. This makes rinsing them under the tap quicker and easier. Make sure the water is clear before finishing. Use a wire brush to remove and built up dry paint from the bristles and metal band on the handle.

What if your applicator just isn't coming clean? Many water-based paints today contain special resins that improve adhesion to the surface, gloss, and durability. The resins are similar to those used in oil-based paints! You may need to rinse the applicator with mineral spirits in order to clean it completely. Follow by a final washing with detergent and water in order to remove all of the thinner.

If You Used A Solvent-Based Coating...

Brushes and rollers used in oil paint should be worked in a bucket of paint thinner first. Normally 2 - 3" of thinner in each rinse is enough.

When the wash thinner is coming clean in the process, shake out the excess and wrap your brush in waxpaper or aluminum foil and hang it rather than sitting it on end. Roller covers should be placed back on the frame and spun out and placed in plastic.

Bread wrappers are perfect. Some folks suggest rinsing out your oil tools in water, Bad Idea! The water tends to make the bristles dry out and become brittle. Keep your brushes soft by rubbing them with a little vaseline before storing. Simply rinse in thinner prior to use.

Save your dirty thinner in a separate container, allow to settle for a few days then pour off the clean thinner on top and save for another day. The remaining sludge in the bottom can be left open to dry out and then properly disposed of. Check local ordinances for regulations regarding proper disposal.

Did you forget to clean the finish from your paintbrush after your last project? Don't throw it away! There's still a good chance it can be salvaged. Soak the brush in a small container of the appropriate solvent (see can for instructions). As a general rule of thumb, you can use alcohol to loosen up shellac and lacquer thinner for lacquer. For water based or oil finishes try using paint and varnish removers such as acetone, xylene, or toluene. After the brush has soaked for a while, work the solvent into the bristles with your hands (wear gloves) and a brush comb (available at most paint stores) or an old fork.

Repeat this process until most of the old finish has been removed and then soak the brush in one of the liquid or powdered prepared brush cleaners or a strong solution of TSP (trisodium phosphate). You can find TSP at most hardware and paint stores.

In many cases these steps will help reclaim the brush. Be sure to wrap the bristles in brown paper or a heavy paper towel to help maintain their shape. Store the brush on a hook or flat on its side.

Brushes and rollers DIY - Decorating - Paints Brushes and Rollers My painting kit

I use brushes for doors windows skirting and around the edges of walls and ceilings. I use a roller

for walls and ceilings and a mini roller with a long handle for getting behind radiators

You don't need to buy loads of equipment for painting a room. I rarely use more than two brush sizes and two roller sizes.



Brushes

I use a 1" brush for very fiddly areas, windows etc. and a 2" brush for larger areas like doors or "cutting" between walls and ceilings or door frames.

The key is to buy decent quality brushes. This is important and will make the job much easier and professional looking.

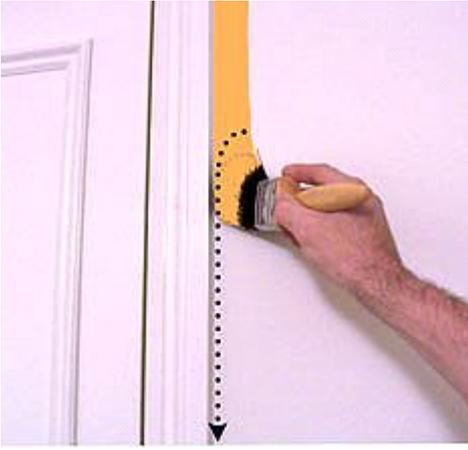
Avoid short stubby narrow brushes. Brushes with long thick bristles load with paint much better and allow you to paint nice clean edges when cutting in, and also give a much better finish on woodwork like doors etc. And remember, a good quality brush will last for years if you look after it.



"Cutting in" refers to painting all the fiddly bits between walls and ceilings or between walls and woodwork. With a little practice you'll get a professional look especially if you use a good brush.

I find some people are tempted to use a much smaller brush for cutting in but if you practice you'll find you actually have much better control with a larger brush and end up with much better results.

For cutting in I use a two inch brush. To load the brush dip it halfway into the paint and rub off some of the excess. Hold the brush sideways and use slow smooth strokes shown by the dotted line of around 12-18".



When painting doors try to load the paint evenly in sections over the surface. Apply the paint and brush it out in every direction, then with your final brush strokes carefully brush vertically from the top to the middle and from the bottom to the middle as to end up with a professional looking finish.

If you're painting panelled doors you may get the odd paint run at the bottom of the panels. Check them after twenty minutes or so before the paint dries and get rid of them with your paint brush.

Oil based paint tends to be more prone to running than water based. (but remember it's more hard wearing)



Rollers

You don't have to spend a lot of money on rollers to get good results.

You can get a perfectly good roller and tray for £3-4. I use a 9 "medium pile roller for walls and ceilings and a medium pile mini roller for behind radiators . This gives a fairly smooth finish with a hint of texture.

When painting with a roller you'll need a paint tray.

Gently load the roller and roll it on the tray to get a nice even load. Don't be afraid to get plenty of paint on the roller. I try to paint in roughly 1 metre square sections with a fully loaded roller. Roll it on the wall and go over that area a couple of times to get an even finish. But don't try and spread the paint too thin or you'll end up having to do more coats than you need. The number of coats depends how dirty the walls are and how dark the original wall colour is.

You may need one two or even 3 coats. If you need any more you'll probably putting the paint on to thinly!!! (Or using rubbish paint)

Tip I always use a roller with a pole. Not just for reaching to ceilings but all the walls. I find it so much easier on the arm and it gives a nice even pressure. You can paint a whole room with very little effort. Try it you'll really notice the difference!

Cleaning

Wipe as much paint from the brushes as you can. Similarly scrape down the roller with a blunt edge.

For water base paints brushes/rollers can then be washed in water.

Oil based paints need to be cleaned with white spirit. Put some spirit in a suitable container and swish the brush round until the paint has loosened. You may leave it to soak if you want. Then dry off with an old cloth.

As an alternative you can buy special brush/roller cleaners which are simple devices which spin the paint out.