

DIY

RAPID  **True Value**
HARDWARE & HOME CENTRE



#1



PROGRAMME

- CHOOSING THE RIGHT PAINT BRUSH AND ROLLER

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PUBLISHER

Publishing Plus

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PAINTING PREPARATION

The preparation of a surface to be painted is the single most important part of the painting process. Unless you are using a textured finish, paint will not cover imperfections on a surface. In fact it will only highlight them. Preparation can be tedious and time consuming, but if you are expecting a good paint job, be prepared to prepare!

This is done in three stages. First: cleaning. Take time to dust and vacuum all surfaces. Then wash with soap and water, especially in kitchens and bathrooms. If there are little grey-green spots of mould, which usually happens after long periods of rain, then make a cleaning solution of one quart of bleach, to three quarts of an ammonia free detergent solution. Protect floors with old newspaper or drop cloths. Leave the bleach solution on the wall for about 15 minutes, then rinse thoroughly.

SMOOTHING SURFACES

Check for bumps or dents by shining a bright light at a low angle across the surface. This will highlight problem areas. Fill the depressions with a recommended compound and sand off the bumps, ridges and other raised imperfections.

PRIMING

Follow the paint manufacturer's recommendations for priming. Failure to use a primer on unpainted walls will reduce adhesion and lead to flaking and peeling paint. It also takes far more paint to cover unprimed wood or concrete.

Previously painted walls and ceilings generally do not require a primer, unless you plan to make a radical colour change, (such as white over red), or there are stains to cover. Also if you do patching with joint compound, you need to prime.

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PAINTING TOOLS

There is a pretty confusing array of tools for painting, but don't get carried away. Choose carefully according to the job you have to do. The most common tools are brushes and rollers, you can add the others as the need arises, and they are available in different sizes and materials. A simple rule for rollers is: use a synthetic roller sleeve for water based paints and a wool and nylon one for alkyd based finishes

Eye protection and a mask or respirator is a good investment as some people are affected by the smell of paints.

Now let's look at how to achieve the faux finish known as "sponging", (*the word Faux means fake and the x is silent*).



SPONGING

Materials and Tools.

- ¼" nap roller and paint tray.
- Disposable latex gloves.
- Natural sea sponge.
- Low tack painter's tape.
- Drop cloth or old newspaper.
- Bucket of water.
- Paper towels.
- Practice board.
- Interior latex satin.
- Latex glazing liquid

1. First prepare the surface to be painted, and mask off ceilings, skirting boards and other trim, (door jambs etc), with painter's tape.
2. Paint the wall with your desired basecoat colour and allow it to dry thoroughly.
3. Cut your sea sponge in half, creating a flat surface. Cut one half in quarters, to create smaller pieces for working in corners and along edges. Wet each sponge in clean water

and wring thoroughly. Mix the latex satin with glazing liquid, one part to five.

4. Dip the flat part of your damp sponge in the glazing colour, then, blot the sponge on paper towels, leaving a small amount of colour on the sponge.

5. Begin sponging in an upper corner and gently press the sponge repeatedly against the wall, overlapping each impression, while rotating your hand at the wrist with each dab. As your sponge becomes dryer, reload, blot and repeat the application process. If the sponge becomes too saturated, rinse it in water and continue.

TIP: Step back often to check your work from a distance. This will allow you to maintain a consistently random pattern.





RAG ROLLING

Another Faux technique, "Rag Rolling" is a variation on the theme of sponging, but this time, using clean lint free cotton rags instead of a sea sponge.

- Preparation is similar to that used when sponging.
- Paint the work surface with your desired base coat colour and allow it to dry properly.
- The Glaze mix is prepared in the same proportions as with sponging and the application technique is the same.
- Practice shaping the cotton rag until you get the pattern needed. Use your practice board to experiment. Remember to roll your wrist when you begin the application.
- Although both techniques are similar, ragging produces a delicate fabric-like texture with a soft variegated appear-

ance. This results in your walls helping to create an intimate mood.

- You can also experiment with other materials for a different look. Instead of cotton rags, try plastic wrap, burlap or brown paper bags. If you are not pleased with the results, the only thing you will lose is, a bit of time.
- An optional technique is, "ragging off". This is achieved by first rolling on the glaze coat, then dab with a damp rag to remove portions of the glaze and reveal your base coat colour.
- Be sure to rinse out your rag often.

TIP. If an area becomes blotchy, allow the glaze to dry. Then dip a clean rag in your base colour and use the same dabbing technique to repair your wall.



BRUSHES

Brushes come in a variety of sizes and shapes, each type for a specific purpose. Selecting a brush is not difficult. Except for the foam types, which should only be used with water based finishes all brushes fall into one of two categories; natural bristle and synthetic bristle. For water based paints use a synthetic bristle and for oil based paints, a natural bristle is best. A good brush, if properly cared will last many years, but for some jobs, cheap, disposable brushes are the way to go.

Speak to a Rapid True Value representative for more details!