

Paint by the Numbers

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Homestead House Paints

Interior Painting Secrets

Painting a room is a creative process and you are the artist. Great artists have secrets. They all start with ideas, research, good quality supplies and a clean canvas. Once the fundamentals are covered the art can begin. Your idea has been formed and you start your research.

Supplies: If you are going to invest in good quality paint, invest in good quality supplies. Use rollers that have plastic instead of cardboard inside. These give you strength and durability, and you can reuse them. Before you start to paint, take the roller and roll it on a piece of tape to catch all the little fuzzballs that would have ended up on your wall. A good quality paintbrush will not lose hairs. It will cost about \$20.00.

A Clean Canvas: Quite simply, paint won't stick to a dirty surface. Every artist cleans and primes his canvas, and a wall is no different. If the surface is clean, priming is not always necessary, but will depend largely on what was previously there. If it is a glossy surface, it will need to be lightly sanded. Be sure to prime prior to painting. DO NOT sand an old oil paint surface as LEAD is an issue. If the old surface has

grime (from cooking or smoking, etc.), then it is best to clean with TSP (soap) before priming and painting.

Creativity: Old homes are famous for a variety of challenges; for example, cracked plaster. There are two possible solutions. One is to call a professional. This will probably create some chaos in your life. The dust created by removing the old plaster will settle just in time for the dust of the repairs to make its way in to EVERY corner of your living space (plastic barriers DO help). Getting a professional is probably the RIGHT thing to do. A more creative option, however, is a quick, cost-effective, do-it-yourself method that can add some dimension to your canvas. If the wall is fairly sound but has cracked plaster, a faux finish can hide the cracks and add a rustic look to your wall.

I had two huge cracks in my living room wall and guests arriving in two days' time. I used a spatula and drywall compound to fill in the cracks and then spread it out randomly, as if I were washing it, covering the entire surface of the wall, which took about an hour. I didn't prime the wall because the wall was in the living room and was not dirty or glossy. I waited one day and applied one coat of Homestead House Niagara Green acrylic latex paint. Once dry, I noticed that the areas where I had applied the drywall compound had absorbed the paint differently, giving me a two tone sheen. I liked it and left it that way. If I had wanted a more consistent sheen of this colour, I would have applied a second coat.

Ciao **Loree**