



Basic Furniture Painting Tips



WANT TO PAINT LIKE A PRO, SELL YOUR PIECES FOR MORE \$\$, AND SELL MORE OF THEM?
Invest The Time To Do The Extras!

KNOW WHEN AND HOW TO PREP TO KEEP YOUR FINISH FROM CHIPPING OR PEELING

- Even if you are lucky enough to find a piece that is in good condition, it still needs a good cleaning. There are many cleaners, but Simple Green seems to be a good option. Always remember you have to rinse off any cleaner! Turn the item over where the yuck usually hides.
- If you are painting a dresser, or any piece with drawers, glass, hardware and such, take every piece off and clean it. Leave the hardware on only if you are going to paint over it.
- Number the drawers on the back so you will install them exactly where they came from, so they fit just right.

SAND IF THERE IS ANY GLOSS OR ROUGH SPOTS

- Who likes to sand? Sometimes we're tempted to jump right into painting. Until you work your heart out and a week later the finish starts peeling off because the paint doesn't have any tooth to stick to. Then you know that sanding is a worthwhile effort. Medium grit, like 220, is fine.
- To really step up your furniture finishing skills, sanding with a fine grit, like 200 or even 400, between paint coats make the piece really sing.

PRIME

- There are times when you can clean and sand your piece and start painting right away. If the colour you are using is fairly similar to the existing finish, or if there are no stains, knot holes or issues, go right ahead.
- If the piece is already painted, it's really critical to know what it was painted with - oil or water-based. Or, it may have furniture polish or wax on it. Finding out is simple. Use a clean white cloth and some denatured alcohol. Wipe away at a spot. If paint comes off, the finish is water based. If it does not, it is oil. (Alcohol is a solvent for water-based or latex paints and mineral spirits removes oil-based products.)
- If you discover the piece is painted in oil, prime it with oil primer. If it just has wax on top of a water-based paint, wipe it down with mineral spirits first and then a damp rag. Let dry. One coat usually does it. Then, you can sand again to make the finish really smooth. If you are doing a texture, no sanding required.
- Have a really tricky surface to paint? Fusion Ultra Grip allows for Fusion Mineral Paint to adhere to surfaces that are typically not for painting such as a lacquered surface, laminate, metal or glass. This water based emulsion increases the adhesion of Fusion colours to glossy, hard to grip surfaces. Milky when wet, dries translucent with very good clarity. Test your methods and product combinations prior to applying in order to ensure desired effects. Apply one coat. Allow to dry for 12 hours before applying subsequent coats of Fusion colours. Clean up with water.
- Fusion Colour Blocker is the perfect primer to make the transition between colours easily, while saving on the paint and the environment. If you are painting a light color over a dark colour, and vice versa, this will save extra coats. Shake well before applying. Allow 2-4 hours to dry between coats.

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IT'S ALMOST TIME TO PAINT. Choose The Best Brush For The Project.

- Choosing a paint brush for furniture finishing is almost as important as selecting the paint brand and the colour.
- Selecting the proper tool affects time, quality, and money.
- When choosing the proper size of Fusion brush, consider the size of the piece you are painting. A small brush is perfect for painting small items like plant stands and a side table. But a large brush is most appropriate when tackling big furniture pieces like sideboards, chests of drawers and wardrobes. Large brushes were designed to hold a lot of paint at once, meaning fewer dips into the paint and trips up and down the ladder.
- It's not unusual to use more than one brush on a project. Either a large or medium brush for the underside, outer areas and inside the drawers and a small brush for edges and details.
- Spending a bit more on brushes means that they last longer, get the job done faster, and make the finish look like a million bucks. So, using Fusion Brush Cleaner is the perfect way to protect your investment.
- If you make a living painting furniture, the bottom line to making money is keeping the cost of materials and tools to a minimum while maintaining quality.

NOW SELECT YOUR FUSION MINERAL PAINT COLOUR AND PAINT!

- Start painting by turning the piece over. That way you aren't crawling under it later, or, you don't have to risk messing up the gorgeous completed top to turn it over at the very end.
- The quality of furniture finishes is often judged not only by the colour, but by the details.
- Your potential customers are going to touch and feel the finish and open the drawers, just like you do at the furniture store.
- Take the time to paint inside the drawers and the back of the piece. And don't forget the top. What if your customer wants to place that highboy next to the stairs?
- Add extras! Cool new hardware, pretty paper drawer lining, stencils outside and inside drawers.
- Make your painted pieces extend your personality and style to keep customers coming back for more!

WANT TO DISTRESS YOUR PIECE?

- First you need to choose your colour layers. Tone-on-tone? Bright pops of colour underneath with a coordinating colour on top? Or vice versa? Two colours? Three?
- First, use a small piece of moulding to experiment with your choices. Especially when you are painting a custom order for a client. Then you can share your sample for customer approval. (HINT: Always have them sign off on their acceptance on the back of the sample.)
- Jennylyn shared her in-depth knowledge of what can occur when distressing some Fusion Mineral Paint colours, like Ceramic, for example. She says that minerals are used as pigments, so when we distress (or burnish), the resin gets broken down. Then it can look different than the original colour. Of course, this can be fabulous, as long as you are aware of it.
- Experiment with wet distressing, which is prettier than sandpaper because it avoids scratching.
- Also take advantage of the Distressing Beeswax Block. After painting the basecoat and it is dry, rub the block on naturally-occurring wear points on your piece.

DO YOU NEED A PROTECTIVE FINISH COAT? Maybe. Maybe Not.

- Fusion Mineral Paint requires no finishing coat, waxing or on-going maintenance.

However, you have choices, depending upon your project requirements:

- Fusion Tough Coat Clear is perfect as a top coat sealer for those high traffic surfaces such as table tops, seating, doors and floors and dries to a satin finish.
- Over the darker colours our Beeswax Finish prevents any marks or finger prints. It is a food safe, all natural product, providing a soft smooth satin finish. It will maintain that gorgeous satin lustre for a very long time!