

To get the best results in your painting project, you should choose the most suitable brushes and rollers. While this might seem complicated, a few simple guidelines should help you through.

## Selecting a Paint Brush

The key choices are the type of filament, the shape of brush and the size of brush.

### *Filament Type*

Filaments (the hairs or strands) are either Synthetic, Natural Bristle or a Blend.

- Synthetic is the best choice for water based paints, while Natural Bristle and Blends are best with oil based paints.

### *Brush Shape*

The Shape or Style of the brush depends upon the painting job.

- **Wall** Brushes are the most common and are used for broad areas. They have a relatively short handle and come in a range of widths.
- **Cutter** Brushes have less filament than wall brushes and a longer handle to help with control. They are used around the edges of areas to be rolled (cutting in), such as door and window frames and ceiling/wall/corner sections where the roller cannot reach.
  - A Sash Cutter has a normal brush head shape and is ideally suited for the application of water based paints.
  - Angle Cutter is similar to a Sash Cutter but has the top of the brush at an angle which assists the user to cut into a sharper more accurate area.
  - An Oval Cutter is a compromise between the two other styles. It gives greater control and accuracy on the edges of the brush and holds more paint in the centre.



### *Brush Size*

The following general guidelines will help with selection:

- 25mm: small jobs & touch-up work on chairs and timber trim.
- 38mm: furniture, small panels, window frames, trellis, mouldings and downpipes.
- 50mm: small to medium size work such as doors, table tops, railings and cabinets.
- 63mm: medium sized areas such as skirtings cupboards, gutters, eaves and doors.
- 75mm: medium to large areas like fence posts and rails, floor boards, steps and fascias.
- 100mm: large areas such as walls, floors, ceilings, roofs and fences.

And keep in mind that a good quality brush holds more paint, makes the paint application smoother and reduces paint spattering.

### **PAINTING WITH A BRUSH**

Clean the brush before starting work. The easiest way is to flick the brush bristle back and forth to remove dust and any loose strands.

- Wash the brush in lukewarm soapy water before commencing work, rinse and leave will also in clean water for 3 to 5 minutes. This soaking will thoroughly moisten the filament and condition it to accept the paint. It will also make the brush easier to clean, particularly with water based paints.
- Hold the brush like a pencil and use long, steady strokes.
- Dip the brush no more than halfway into the paint. Remove excess by tapping gently against the inside of the can. Do not wipe the brush on the top of the can as this will remove much of the paint.
- Paint the surface with the brush tip, not with the sides of the brush.
- Start at the top when painting walls.
- Brush paint on to a dry area and work towards and into the wet area to allow overlap to blend.



### **BRUSH CARE**

A quality brush will last for years and will continue to apply paint smoothly if it is looked after.

- First wipe or scrape any excess paint off the bristles and the metal ferrule.
- Then rinse the brush – with Mineral Turps if you've been using oil based paint or with fresh water if you've been using a water based paint.
- Never use Hot water as this can loosen the bristles.
- Wash gently using a mild soap or dishwashing liquid solution, or alternatively a solution of fabric softener in water (a cap full to 2Litres of water).
- Rinse and repeat until there is no colour coming from the brush.
- Rinse once more in clean water and then shake off the excess.
- Gently comb the bristles and hand shape while still damp. The brush is now ready for storage.
- Either wrap the bristles in newspaper or return the brush to its storage pack. Then store flat or hang the brush by the handle.

There are a few things you should not do with your brushes:

- Don't use a brush to stir paint.
- Never leave a brush to harden. Clean it immediately after use.
- Never let a brush soak in water for a prolonged period. This can cause the head of the brush to become loose.
- Never rest a brush on its bristles as the weight will curl them

## BRUSHES & ROLLERS

### SELECTING A PAINT ROLLER

There is a wide range of roller types and sizes for different projects.

The Nap or thickness of the roller, the type of material used and the quality of the roller will all affect the finish.

#### *Nap or Thickness*

This refers to the thickness of the material used on the roller and determines how much paint the roller will hold. As a general rule, the glossier the paint and the smoother the surface, the shorter the Nap you should use.

- Short Nap 5 to 8mm: relatively low paint holding, but is the best choice for glossy paint, as it leaves a thin, very smooth paint film. Can be used on smooth and semi-smooth surfaces.
- Regular, 10 to 12mm: Holds more paint than the short Nap but the finish is not as fine. Produces a soft-looking, stippled effect. A good choice for water based paints on smooth and semi-smooth surfaces such as walls and cement render.
- Long, 22 to 32mm: Recommended for semi-rough surfaces like brickwork and masonry. Exceptional paint holding capacity. Also suitable for semi-smooth surfaces where heavy coverage is more important than finish. Works a heavy load of paint into the irregularities of a textured, damaged or extremely porous surface. The greater the irregularities, the longer the pile needed. Can create a deeply stippled effect on any surface.

#### *Fabric Material:*

Particular fabric materials are recommended for different paints and applications:

- Synthetic rollers are recommended for most applications, giving a neat finish on smooth surfaces such as internal walls and ceilings.
- Sheepskin is generally used in long Nap lengths on rougher surfaces such as cement render and brickwork. The natural fibres pick up and release paint readily however the rollers are more expensive than those made from synthetic material.
- Polyamide Fabric or Seamless Foam are recommended for full and semi-gloss enamels where a mirror finish is required.
- Textured rollers are also available in coarse, medium and fine and these can produce a range of stippled effects.

Good Quality rollers are normally marked with the recommended application, which makes the choice much easier



### *Roller Quality:*

The quality level of the paint roller will determine the quality of the finish, the durability of the roller, the amount of paint it will hold and the ease of use.

Premium quality rollers will provide the best finish, will last the longest and will hold the most paint. These are generally preferred by professional painters.

However, medium to high quality rollers will provide a great finish, last reasonably well and hold paint well, making them a good choice for DIY projects.

Cheap rollers are only recommended for disposable single use where the quality of finish is not critical, for example, applying slate sealer.

### **USING A PAINT ROLLER**

- Half fill the well of the Roller Tray with paint. Dip the roller in so it is a little less than half submerged.
- Lift the roller and roll it down the sloped grating two or three times to spread the paint on the roller. Dip the roller into the paint once more and roll it on the grating again until it has been evenly saturated. Don't overload the roller or it can slide and give an uneven coat.
- The first stroke with a newly loaded roller should always be away from you.
- To paint a ceiling, begin about 1 metre from the corner and roll towards the corner. Without lifting the roller from surface, continue to make a 'W' pattern about 1 metre square.
- To paint a wall, push the roller upwards on the first stroke, away from you, and complete an 'M' pattern, again about a metre square.

These initial strokes spread most of the paint load evenly over the section. Now fill in the parts in between without removing the roller from the surface. Use criss-crossing strokes, each of about 450mm to 600mm with even pressure until the entire section is evenly covered.

- Finish up with uniform strokes in one direction. Move along to the next section, load the roller and repeat the sequence.

### **ROLLER CARE**

- Wipe or scrape off as much excess paint as possible. A wire Roller Cleaner is ideal for this.
- The simplest way to clean a roller is to leave it on the frame and use a jet of water from a hose nozzle to rinse and spin the roller and throw the paint off with centrifugal force. However, this can be messy and you need a good area of lawn or similar. Obviously you can't use this method with oil based paints. If you are using oil based paints, you might prefer to merely remove the excess paint and discard the roller. The cost of the solvent can be more expensive than a new roller.
- There are cleaning devices available for sale and these can work quite well.
- Otherwise, rinse and wash in warm soapy water as for Brushes.
- Store the cleaned roller cover standing up so that the pile is not flattened.

**DON'T** hesitate to ask. We are always happy to provide advice and assistance

For more information or assistance call 1300 661 745 or (08) 8368 0222.

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