

# ASK THE PURDY PAINT DOCTOR

## HELPFUL ADVICE FOR PROFESSIONAL PAINTERS

By Bruce Schneider, Training Coordinator and End-User Marketing Manager, Purdy

**Q: What is the proper method for rolling paint onto a drywall ceiling? I want to avoid lap marks. Also, regarding trimming the walls, should I use an angle or straight brush?**

PD: For painting a ceiling, it is best to match the correct roller cover fabric pile height, or nap, to the surface being painted. Smooth surfaces are best served using a short, 3/8" nap. If there is a little texture on the ceiling, use a thicker, 1/2" nap. And for a heavy texture, use a 3/4" nap. Avoid lap marks by keeping the roller cover well loaded. Some painters will roll until the roller cover is dry and will apply increasing amounts of pressure to squeeze out the last drop before re-loading. It is the added pressure being applied to the roller which causes lap marks to appear. So, rather than boosting productivity, pushing the roller dry merely adds to overall project time because of the necessary re-work.

Regarding the brush; for most painters brush style is simply a personal preference. Many pros find an angular brush will provide better control and performance in tight corners. A long handle brush will extend a painter's reach, making for fewer trips up and down the ladder as one moves the ladder from one end of the room to the other.

**Q: When I paint using a roller, there are streaks that show after the paint dries - very annoying. How do I eliminate streaking?**

PD: First, it is possible the pigments in the paint were not mixed sufficiently prior to application. If you are certain inadequate mixing is not the culprit, then it is likely you are also running the roller too dry. For best results, keep the cover well loaded. Cover no more than 12 to 15 square feet per dip depending on the pile height and the surface texture. To boost productivity, consider trying a hi-capacity polyamide fabric, which is what is used in the Purdy® Colossus™ roller cover.

**Q: I am painting a relatively new home for a client. The walls are textured to semi-rough and I have applied two coats of primer over the original paint from the builder. Yet, I am still seeing some areas darker than others and I know these are not simply shadows. What gives?**

PD: Perhaps the wall board was not properly primed after the texture was applied. The original painter should have applied primer made for raw drywall and taping mud. Some people simply do not understand that paint and primer contain different properties and deliver different

results. I recommend you apply Poly Vinyl Acetate (PVA) primer as your next step. This is a primer sealer typically used in new construction on all unpainted interior drywall and texture coatings. It includes acetate instead of the usual acrylic which is an improvement for sealing out moisture and odors. Designed for the professional painter and formulated for excellent adhesion, PVA provides a uniform foundation for alkyd or latex products.

To eliminate any visible inconsistency from the base coat, consider asking your local paint store to tint the PVA to half the intensity of the color you plan to paint.

**Q: I have a client with a wood front door that is peeling from too much exposure to the evening sun. Any suggestions for minimizing peeling and chipping so the same problem does not reappear any time soon?**

PD: Your prep work will make a big difference on this project. First, gently scrape off all of the loose paint material. Afterwards, sand the edges where the paint has been removed, gently feathering the edges to make the transition from the painted area to the scraped area smooth. Dust and clean the door. Afterwards, apply a quality primer/undercoat to the dry, clean surface. Doing so will help seal the area that has been scraped and lessen the chance of the door peeling any time soon. After the primer dries, apply a superior-quality exterior paint with a professional-grade paint brush.

The Paint Doctor is the alter-ego of Bruce Schneider, who serves on the IUPAT trade-school curriculum committee. With 30+ years of paint industry experience, if Bruce doesn't know the answer to your question, he likely knows who does. Most questions are answered within 48 hours.

Got a paint project question? Visit [www.purdycorp.com](http://www.purdycorp.com) and click on the "Ask the Paint Doctor" link.

