

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 way to paint crown molding to achieve a smooth, continuous application?

PD: The key for best appearance on crown molding is to keep a wet edge while painting. Do not let your tool run dry. To achieve the appearance of a smooth, continuous run on a long stretch of molding, the trick is to dip the right amount of paint onto your brush at the right time. The challenge, of course, is that there are many variables involved with determining for how long a stretch one can keep a wet edge. These variables include the size of the molding, the last time the surface was painted, the type and color of coating already on the molding, the color of the paint being applied, etc. So there is no one-size-fits-all solution. Use your judgment based on previous experience to determine how deep to dip your brush into the can and dip again before the brush runs dry. Speaking of the brush, I often recommend a Purdy® Nylox™ Glide™ paint brush for crown molding applications. The satin-edged, 100% DuPont™ Tynex® black-nylon filaments deliver remarkable results when laying off paint. Secondly, the long handle extends your reach, which improves productivity by reducing trips up and down the ladder.

Q: Which biodegradable paint brush cleaners do you recommend?

PD: It is hard to beat a brush comb, dish soap and a little elbow grease for cleaning up a paint brush. When cleaning up after applying oil-based products, use hot water, more dish soap and a lot of elbow grease. My experience is that many biodegradable cleaners are similar to dish soap in performance.

Q: What features do you recommend a pro should look for when buying a high-quality surface prep tool?

PD: Surface prep is tedious work. Having the right tool in your hands makes the job easier. In fact, one of the primary comments I heard from painters who recently tested Purdy's new Premium Surface Prep tool line was that the tools just felt right in their hands. So, start by looking at the handle to judge comfort and balance. You need a no-slip, rubberized comfort grip to minimize painter fatigue for tough jobs. Tools that include a robust nail-set end allow you to tap in stubborn nails without stopping to search for a hammer. High-carbon steel blades are important for durability and long life. In fact, look for tools with a lifetime guarantee,

which some brands offer. Generally, professional paint contractors will keep the following prep tools at the jobsite: a pro-grade multipurpose tool (6-in-1 or 5-in-1) most painters feel a 99-in-1 is overkill), a 1-1/2-inch or 2-inch putty knife (stiff-angled blade and/or flex-angled blade), a couple of 3-inch scrapers (both flex-angled and stiff-angled blades), and a 4-inch or 6-inch flex blade joint knife.

Q: What is the main difference between using White China bristle brushes and Black China bristle brushes? I own a set of Purdy White China brushes. Is there a reason I would need to purchase a set of Black China brushes as well?

PD: There are subtle differences between White China and Black China bristle. White China bristle tends to be a little softer, making it the better choice for enamels and varnishes. The White China tends to wear a bit faster than the naturally coarser Black China bristle. Typically, Black China is recommended for flat paints. Keep in mind, many of today's synthetic-filament brushes perform as well as bristle in solvent-based products. So, for now, simply save your money because the White China bristle set will get the job done for all of your solvent-based product applications. Once they wear out, look for a tool line such as the Purdy Syntox™, which is designed for use with both water-based and solvent-based coatings.

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 and click on the "Ask the Paint Doctor" link.

