

PAINTING *by numbers*

The correct application of paint will change the look of a room at very little expense. Follow our **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE** to painting your home to get the professional look all by yourself. The key? It's all in the preparation.

If you are bored with the appearance of your interior don't go to the extreme of buying lots of new, expensive furniture, just go down the road to your local Mitre 10 and pick up a couple of cans of accent paint (exclusive to Mitre 10). Painting the interior of your home can dramatically transform the look and feel at relatively little expense. If you are still not happy, rearrange the furniture you have and maybe introduce some new cushions or other accessories to help to reinvent your space.

Of course you can't beat a professional, but painting remains one of the most common tasks undertaken by novices who want to save time and money by doing it themselves. Follow our step-by-step guide, however, and you can get the professional look all by yourself.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE PREPARATION

Painting is not difficult but like most tasks, the key to a good result is all about preparation. The more effort you put into correctly preparing the surface, the more professional finish you will achieve. So, unless you love to paint and want to do it again soon, you absolutely must prepare the surface properly

before you paint. Remember to allow plenty of time for the task. It will probably take you longer than the actual painting itself.

GET RID OF MILDEW

Mildew is that spotty black, grey and brown mould that grows in warm, moist, low-light areas such as laundries, bathrooms and shower rooms. You might be tempted to wipe down the area and then paint over it. The paint or stain might cover it at first, but before long the mildew will grow right through the new surface.

To rid the area of mildew:

- Prepare a 3:1 mixture of water and household bleach (3 parts water to 1 part bleach).
- Sponge the mixture on the mildew.
- Allow it to remain on the surface for at least 20 minutes, and reapply as it dries.
- Rinse thoroughly with water.
- Then wash the area with a mild detergent and rinse with water again.

CLEAN THE AREA

Paint adheres better to a clean surface.



top tip

Always wear goggles, rubber gloves and old clothes when working with bleach. Never mix bleach with ammonia products. The combination can release poisonous vapours.

