Pointers For Painters

Simple Steps To Keep Things Looking Up Around The House

(NAPSA)—Painting the ceiling is a great way to complete a room and give it a polished look.

By using the ceiling as a fifth wall, you can add a splash of color to make small rooms seem larger and cavernous ones cozier and give a fresh, clean appearance to every room. Moreover, painting the ceiling can be easier than some homeowners might think.

Here are a few hints to help from the experts at Behr Paints:

Picking the Perfect Ceiling Paint Color

Most people paint their ceiling white or off-white because these shades reflect light and coordinate well with other colors. Ceilings, however, can be one of the best places to use a fun splash of color. High ceilings can benefit from a lightly tinted color to make rooms that might appear too large and expansive feel more human and cozy. Painting low ceilings with semi-gloss paint, on the other hand, will make them seem higher. Crown molding in a darker color can draw the eye upwards.

How to Paint a Ceiling

1. Pour thoroughly mixed paint into a bucket and dip a quality 2" to 2½" wide nylon/polyester brush into it. When using more than a gallon of paint, combine the containers for better uniformity of color. This is called "boxing."

2. With your brush, paint (cut in) along the perimeter of the ceiling surface. To avoid drips, tap off the excess paint against the inside wall of the bucket.

3. From the bucket, pour paint into a paint tray and work a roller into the tray until it's fully loaded. Use a ⅜" to ½" roller cover for light texture and a ½" to 1" cover for

Spatter and drip-resistant ceiling paint is a time-saving product with stain-blocking qualities.

heavy texture. For large areas, use a 5-gallon bucket and bucket grid.

4. Starting in a 3' x 3' section at a corner of your project area, roll the paint onto the ceiling in a "W" formation. For an even application, begin 3" to 4" away from the cut-in section.

5. Work the roller back and forth across the section until the "W" is completely filled in. Roll over the cut-in area, too. Reload the roller when necessary to maintain a wet edge.

6. Continue working in 3' x 3' sections across the width of the ceiling. To blend the sections for a uniform finish, lightly pass the roller over the newly painted area.

7. Repeat the process of painting and blending the sections until the project is complete.

What You'll Need to Paint a Ceiling

One thing that can make painting ceilings quicker and easier is a new addition to Behr's paint and primer in one line: Behr Premium Plus Ultra Stain-Blocking Ceiling Paint. When dry, it forms an extra protective shell that resists moisture, stains and mildew and has a flat sheen to minimize surface imperfections and provide a uniform appearance.

With a unique formulation and viscosity, the paint dries to touch in 30 minutes and can be recoated in one hour. Since it's designed to be spatter and drip resistant, it's easier to apply with smooth consistency and delivers thick and even coverage. The paint offers excellent stain-blocking action against water, ink, rust, nicotine, wood or tannin bleed and mildew stains. It's great for both uncoated and properly prepared, previously painted interior surfaces such as drywall, acoustical tile, cured masonry, plaster, wallboard and other ceiling surfaces.

To transform the look and feel of a room, the paint can be tinted to a wide range of light colors or left pure white for a more traditional look. In addition, colors can be custom matched using Behr's advanced computer matching system.

Where to Find Ceiling Paint

It's available in all The Home Depot stores. You can find more at www.behr.com, including how-to information, design inspiration and 8-oz. paint samples. Fans can go to www.twitter.com/behrpaint and www.facebook.com/behrpaint. And, the ColorSmart by Behr Mobile application, available as a free download for the iPhone, helps do-it-yourselfers find the perfect colors for any home decorating project at the touch of a finger.