

Tips For The First-Time Painter

(NAPSA)—Painting your home is an exciting and challenging project, especially if you are doing it for the first time. Whether you're painting one room or an entire house, the look and mood of a home can be determined by the paint job. The colors you choose, how well the paint is applied and how well you have prepped the surface all determine the outcome. Like most projects, painting requires a lot of preparation, guidance and proper clean up. For the first-time painter, who might be less concerned about the details and more concerned about the color and final results, there are some simple instructions and tips that will help you execute and complete your painting project with ease.

Here are some basic guidelines to get you started:

- **Discuss your paint options with an informed salesperson.** Paints are formulated for special needs. By making sure you have the right type of paint for your project you can save time and energy and eliminate the need to re-paint the area. Some of the many different paint finishes are: flat, eggshell, satin, semi-gloss, gloss and hi-gloss, enamel, and moisture- and mildew-resistant. The right finish depends on how you want it to look. It is also important to consider the amount of traffic moving through the room and the potential for dirt and grease to come in contact with the painted surface. See a local paint dealer for professional recommendations.

- **Prepare your painting surface.** Before you paint, make sure that the surface is clean of any dust or dirt. Repair any cracks or holes with spackling paste, available at hardware and home improvement stores. Once the paste is dry, use sandpaper to smooth out the surface.

- **Choose a tape that is safe for your surface.** Tape off areas where you do not want paint—moldings, ceilings, floors, etc. Using a good, high-quality painting tape will ensure that the paint stays off the areas you do not intend to paint, yet the tape will remove cleanly without damaging surfaces. There are many types of painting tapes but for most interior surfaces such as drywall and



wallpaper, it is best to use a tape specialized for delicate surfaces, like Duck brand Perfect Release. Duck brand also offers a helpful brochure that indicates which tapes will work best for a specific painting project. It is available at major home improvement stores, including Lowe's.

- **Protect your work area.** Use double-sided painting tape to apply drop cloths to prevent paint from getting onto floors and furniture. Drop cloths are easy to install and can be custom fit to the area that you are painting. For added convenience, the Duck brand offers a variety of drop cloths with a pre-taped edge that makes hanging them fast and easy.

- **Dispose of your paint properly.** If you have a substantial amount of paint left, call local schools, shelters, etc. and see if they have a need for paint. If there is a small amount of paint left, make sure it is disposed of correctly. Before throwing away your latex paint, take the lid off and allow the paint to dry. Dried latex paint can be thrown out with regular garbage pick up. Oil-based paint should be taken to a hazardous waste collection center. If you are not sure of proper disposal, call the sanitation or health department for further instruction.

With the above guidelines, your first-time painting project can be enjoyable and successful, no matter how large or complex the project seems. As long as you have the right tools and instructions, you can create a beautiful paint job that will add a whole new dimension to your home.

For more information about Duck brand painting products call (800) 321-0253 or visit www.duckproducts.com.