

Painting know how

Gloss paint

Type of paint: gloss, solvent-based and water-based

Finishes: satinwood, eggshell, gloss

Uses: wood and metal

How to choose

Solvent-based gloss paint is typically hard wearing and designed for use on metal and wood. It is suitable for use both inside and outside, but water-based gloss or exterior paints are often preferable for exterior jobs as solvent-based paints can take up to 24 hours to dry.

When talking about paint the word for shine is 'sheen'. Generally the higher the sheen level, the easier it is to clean the surface/the more scrub resistant it is. Gloss paint itself is very hard wearing, resistant to dirt and gives a high sheen finish. Satinwood is as durable as gloss paint but gives a more subtle sheen. Eggshell offers the lowest sheen of the three types; giving a softer appearance.

It should also be noted that heat and lack of daylight can discolour paint especially white, therefore when painting radiators consider using radiator paint.

How to use

Bare metal and wood surfaces need to be primed to create a surface to which undercoat and gloss or eggshell/satinwood can be applied. For woodwork, apply undercoat to provide a good, even base before using a solvent-based or water-based gloss, whereas eggshell/satinwood are both self undercoating so only two coats are needed.

Full details can be found on the back of the paint can, but in general you will need to use one or two coats to achieve good coverage. However, solvent-based paints take much longer to dry than water-based paints and because of their solvent content should be used in a well-ventilated area.

If the existing paint is peeling or has a high sheen finish, you will need to remove all defective coating or use sand or glass paper to remove any major flaws and roughen the surface.

Unless the paint is 'non-drip' you will need to stir it before starting to ensure that you are working with an even colour throughout. Non-drip paint, on the other hand, should be thicker and lumpier, so if it does look liquid when you open the tin, re-seal and leave it to settle before using.

How to clean up

Whilst there are a growing number of water based gloss paints, the majority are still solvent-based so you will not be able to simply clean your brushes (or any drips) with water. Instead you will need to use an appropriate brush cleaner such as white spirit, which can be purchased from DIY and hardware stores.

First, where possible, scrape excess paint from the brush/roller back into the can. Dip in brush cleaner, in a jam jar (or similar) before working more paint out, for example onto newspaper. Repeat this cleaning process until the bristles are clean. Finally wash the brush with soap and rinse with warm water, shake out excess water and leave to dry.

If you only need to store the brush/roller between coats then simply wrap tightly in cling film, but do not leave like this for more than 24 hours.

How to store

Be sure to replace the lid firmly, so that the paint can is sealed and no air can get in. If you still have some paint leftover when you've finished you can donate it to your local Community RePaint scheme: communityrepaint.org.uk

