

Before You Paint Prep Checklist

The prep work IS the paint job — do not skip this

The Day Before — Plan and Gather

- Choose your paint color and finish — buy samples first
- Purchase all supplies — brush, roller, tray, drop cloth
- Confirm you have enough paint — one gallon covers approx 350-400 sq ft
- Check that you have painter's tape if using it
- Gather your spackling compound and putty knife
- Make sure sanding block or sandpaper is on hand

Before You Open the Paint — Room Prep

- Move furniture out of the room or push to center and cover
- Remove outlet covers and light switch plates
- Remove curtain rods and hardware if painting near windows
- Lay drop cloth across entire floor — canvas preferred
- Remove any nails or picture hooks from walls
- Turn off ceiling fan if painting ceiling

Wall Prep — The Step Everyone Skips

- Clean walls with damp cloth and mild dish soap — especially kitchen and bathroom
- Let walls dry completely — at least one hour
- Fill all nail holes and dings with spackling compound
- Fill larger chips with drywall putty
- Let all repairs dry completely — do not rush this

- Sand all repairs smooth with 120-grit sandpaper
- Wipe away all sanding dust with a tack cloth or damp cloth
- Sand any rough or peeling paint areas smooth
- Spot prime any bare drywall repairs if using a light color over dark

Tape and Final Setup (Optional)

- Apply painter's tape along ceiling line if not cutting in freehand
- Apply painter's tape along trim and baseboards if needed
- Press tape down firmly along every inch of the edge
- Tape off any outlets or switches that are close to painting area
- Open windows for ventilation if painting with oil-based paint
- Stir paint thoroughly before opening — do not shake
- Pour paint into tray — fill the well not the ridged area

After Painting — The Final Steps

- Remove painter's tape while paint is still slightly wet — not fully dry
- Touch up any bleeds or missed spots with a small brush
- Check for drips by looking at the wall from a low angle
- Let first coat dry fully before second coat — usually 2-4 hours
- Apply second coat — always do two coats minimum
- Replace outlet covers and switch plates after paint is fully dry
- Label leftover paint with room name and date before storing
- Store leftover paint upside down to prevent skin forming on surface

Project Notes

Room being painted:

Paint color and brand:

Paint finish chosen:

Wall square footage:

Gallons of paint purchased:

Date started:

Date finished:

Full painting tutorial at MomMakesHome.com ■