

your complete guide to
painting
furniture

the best supplies
and paint to use
{to prevent chipping}



and
tips for first-time painters

painting furniture supplies & tips

tip #1 :: this is going to be easier than you think. getting started is the hardest part. as much as you might be thinking otherwise, you really can't mess this up. don't overthink your supplies or your process. follow the favorites below and you will be all set!

tip #2 :: if it feels like you are ruining the whole thing, keep going. i often think the same thing. in the end, you will not notice any of the imperfections you worry about as you go.

tip #3 :: primer makes all the difference. it allows you to skip sanding and removing old paints and stains. i have never sanded a piece before painting. just wipe down your piece with a wet cloth to remove dust. i tested whether using primer makes a difference in chipping. it does. i now have a whole piece that chips easier than the others because i tried to skip the primer. don't skip the primer. {you can get your primer tinted to match the paint color you've chosen for your piece. this is especially helpful if the paint color you've chosen is darker.}

note :: i make some references to lowes in the suggestions below. i am not affiliated with this store. it is just the closest hardware store to my house. you can get these supplies at any hardware store, except for the valspar paint, which is specific to lowes. valspar signature is a second tier paint {the middle option when it comes to expense} and i am sure other hardware stores have an equivalent primer/paint product if you don't have a lowes nearby.

favorite brushes



- whizz microlon mini paint applicator kit, 4 inch, and refill rolls.
- use this {or similar} to apply paint or primer to any surface. it will look a little textured at first. when it dries this is less noticeable. this is the method i used on my piano and hutch and it was the fastest i've ever painted two pieces. it is my new favorite way to apply paint and now i use it more than brushes.
- photo credit and information [here](#) at lowes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 2" or 2 1/2" angled brushes like this one are my favorite. i usually need 2-3 of this size brush per project. brushes don't have to be new. i reuse brushes for as long as i can. <input type="checkbox"/> i wash brushes in between uses with dish soap and warm water, but they take awhile to dry. in order to keep a project going within the same day, i keep more than one brush on hand. <input type="checkbox"/> i also like to have 1-2, 3" brushes for larger surfaces like table tops, unless you choose to use the roller from above. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit for blue hawk brush here at lowes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> honestly, the brush doesn't matter that much. just pick one, preferably angled, that is in your price range. i also like multipacks like this one for affordability purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from lowes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> i like to buy a bag of cheap white rags at my hardware store to clean up spills. i also use them to remove wood stain if i am staining something. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from lowes.

favorite paints

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 1*2*3 zinsser primer :: wipe down your furniture piece with a damp rag. allow it to dry for about an hour. apply one coat of primer to the entire piece. application doesn't really matter but i try to use the same brush/roller strokes i plan to use with my final paint color when i prime. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from rustoleum.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> valspar signature latex paint plus primer, satin finish :: once your primer dries, apply 1-2 coats of paint in a color of your choice. my favorite look for furniture is the satin finish. it is just slightly shiny. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from valspar at lowes.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> minwax polycrylic water based protective finish, satin finish :: once your paint {or stain} dries, distress {if you want}, and then apply 1-2 coats of this protective coat. i buy the smaller can and use one coat. <input type="checkbox"/> this goes on fast and it is very thin. watch for drips. <input type="checkbox"/> this step prevents your piece from chipping. it also allows you to dust, scrub, and even use antibacterial kitchen wipes without worrying you will ruin the paint/stain. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from minwax.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> minwax pre-stain :: apply this before you apply any oil-based stain. be ready to stain 15-30 minutes after you apply the pre-stain. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from minwax.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> minwax oil-based stain :: this is the only oil based product i use. i have no doubt the water-based product is just as good, with an easier clean up. {if you decide on the water-based, buy the water-based pre-stain.} <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from minwax. i have used the honey {shelves in my son's room}, special walnut {laundry room bench}, and classic gray {kitchen and coffee table tops} colors. *classic gray used to be called weathered gray.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> krylon color master :: my favorite because it comes in many colors and finishes {like chalk paint and sparkles}, is a primer + paint, and is sold in lots of stores that allow you to use coupons {i.e. hobby lobby}. otherwise, you can't go wrong with spray paint. read the label as far as indoor/outdoor and specialized surfaces. i prefer the satin finish. <input type="checkbox"/> i do not use a primer when it comes to spray paint. the ones with a built in primer work fine, especially if you use the protective finish on top of the color {see below}. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from krylon.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> krylon clear protective finish :: similar to the minwax polycrylic, this is a good top coat for pieces that get a lot of traffic or are exposed to the elements. i prefer the satin finish. if you want the chalk paint look, you will want a matte finish. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here from krylon.


favorite look


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> i use a palm sander like this to distress my pieces. i like the “chippy” look. in my experience, the polycrylic finish prevents from 99% of chipping. but nothing is 100% fool proof. <input type="checkbox"/> i press this lightly around the edges and along some of the flat surfaces after painting my piece. this part always makes me nervous. there are times i've thought i've ruined a piece. but once you have it ALL distressed, any areas you felt were too much always blend in. <input type="checkbox"/> information and photo credit here at black and decker. your hardware store will have many options. i would buy what's cheapest with sandpaper that is easy to rebuy at the store.
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*feel free to email erin@noticethelittlethings.com with any questions as you start your project. happy painting!