



Painting Fundamental - 7

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Need: Eliminate dust, fibers, or any foreign debris from coating finishes for better appearance, feel, and less re-work. Control the work area from other contractor activities to prevent contaminants in your finishes.

Procedure Steps:

1. Ensure all prep has been completed in work area.
2. Floor Protection: Flooring and/or carpets should be covered with a clean dust free covering.
 - a. Remove sources of dust (furniture, boxes, equipment) from work area or cover with plastic and seal to the floor protection (spray adhesive is good).
 - b. Windows and Entrance Doors – close them
 - c. If air is needed from windows or doors be sure that the air flow does not cross your work surfaces.
 - d. Air Ducts – cover them if possible. If you need to leave them uncovered be sure to vacuum them out. If not covered, applying a filter over the supply duct can help. Leave the ducts covered until paint is dry.
 - e. Vacuum the entire work area before start of painting. Use a brush attachment and/or a dust brush to loosen dust from corners. Pay particular attention to:
 - i. Tops of door and window casings
 - ii. Outlet and switch boxes and recessed light holes
 - iii. Door knob areas
 - iv. Corners and gaps - especially in moldings and at base/floor
 - v. Windows – exterior sills & storm window tracks
 - vi. Vacuum your clothes as necessary to remove fibers & dust
 - f. Limit access to work area to painting personnel ONLY. Post signs as needed.
 - g. Paint Brushes should be free from dust, debris & dried paint on the bristles.
 - h. Roller Covers – remove loose fibers.
 - i. Bucket and Roller Pan/Tray Liners – vacuum or wipe out dust and fibers.
 - j. Strain Paint:
 - i. Flip strainer bag right side out – they come inside out
 - ii. Strain paint into a clean pot liner or bucket for daily storage
 - iii. Brand new paint – yes, even that needs to be strained
 - k. Keep bucket of strained paint clean

DUST FREE FINISHES

- i. Pour paint into your work bucket as needed so a large amount is not contaminated.
- ii. Put aluminum foil over the storage bucket, not a rag which can drop fibers etc. into it.
- iii. Do not pour used paint into the storage bucket, have a separate used/un-strained bucket of paint.
- l. Wipe surfaces right before painting each area/item.
- m. Windows – paint the interior sill (stool cap) and casing with the sash closed so that wind does not blow debris into the wet paint. This may require the stool cap to be painted at a separate time from the sash.
- n. Paint horizontal surfaces and baseboards last if practical.
- o. While you are painting, use a bright light, held at an angle, to inspect each area for debris and imperfections in the finish paint.

Tips:

- If working over an unfinished sub floor or concrete, a light mist of water will help keep dust down.
- Humidify the work area, if possible, because high humidity reduces airborne dust (and improves working with water-based paints).
- Vacuuming your paint brush prior to use is a good technique to remove dust.
- Cloths used to wipe surfaces clean should not leave residue or new fibers. Microfiber cloths or damp cloths may be effective for this. Some tack cloths have wax that can interfere with the water-based paint's application.
- If you notice fibers or larger dust particles in your finish while it is drying, the tip of the brush can sometimes be used to pick them out without damaging the finish.
- Some light debris may be rubbed out of a dry surface with craft/masking paper, but test first to ensure no scratch damage.
- Work Smart, when you notice debris in your paint, set up a fresh painting kit – clean the brush (or get another one) and get a new pot liner with fresh paint.
- Any dust remaining on surfaces will be picked up in the brush and will contaminate your entire paint pot and then will be spread to other surfaces like a virus. Therefore, it is very important to clean each surface not only to provide a smooth finish on that area but also on everything painted after it.

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