



Painting Fundamental - 15

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Authored by: Steve Adickes, Don Easton, Charlie Gilley, Shawn Heffernan, Rich O'Neil, Ken Sisco

Preparation:

1. Make sure the surface you are taping to is clean, dust free and dry.
2. Select the proper tape to use – see Different Types of Tapes Commonly Used by Painters.

Application:

1. Apply tape in continuous lengths whenever possible
 - a. This will make for faster application and removal.
 - b. Some tapes will not adhere to themselves well.
 - c. Overlapping tape can be misaligned which will show in the finished product
2. If tape sections must be overlapped, apply them in one direction. Remove the tape in the same order as it was applied. If removed this way, the tape should come off in one piece. For example, if tape is applied left to right, remove it left to right.
3. Burnish (firmly rub) the tape edge at the surface you are protecting to make sure you have a good seal. Tip – Bondo Auto Body Spreaders work well for burnishing without damaging the tape.
4. If using other masking materials such as masking paper/film or floor protection, rub down the remaining area of the tape to ensure proper adhesion to those materials.

Removal

1. Pull the tape back so that it is flat to the surface over itself and at a slight angle away from the finished edge. This method exerts less tension on the surface than pulling the tape straight out from the surface, therefore there is less chance of damage. In addition, this method produces a clean finished edge and it is more likely that the tape will be removed in one continuous piece.
2. If when removing the tape, you notice that the underlying coating or substrate is coming off with the tape, stop immediately and saturate the tape with paint thinner. Let it sit for a while and try again. Wipe remaining paint thinner off the surface.
3. If there's a heavy buildup of paint bridging the edge of the tape to the finished painted surface, it may have to be scored before removing in order to prevent uneven tearing of the topcoat. A broad knife placed at the tape edge can be used as a guide to cut with a putty knife or sharp razor knife.

Tips:

- Retractable snap bladed knives are useful for cutting detailed edges.
- Remove tape at painted edges as soon as safely possible. This can reduce removal time, tearing of tape, jagged paint edges or substrate damage.
- Newly applied flat paints tend to be less problematic during tape removal as opposed to newly applied higher sheen coatings.
- Check the tape manufacturers recommendations regarding duration times for clean removal.