



Painting Fundamental - 2

Last Updated: 5/1/2018

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Need: Extend Brush life and ensure maximum performance of a brush

Tools/Supplies: Cleaning solvent such as water, mineral spirits, denatured alcohol, etc.; Detergent such as liquid dish soap, concentrated cleaner, etc; Brush Spinner; 5-gallon buckets; Brass brush; Brush Comb

Procedure Steps:

1. Remove as much paint as possible from the brush by wiping the bristles across the paint can edge.
2. Spin out the brush inside an empty 5-gallon bucket to remove as much paint as possible BEFORE using a cleaning liquid.
3. Determine proper solvent/cleaning liquid for the brush.
4. Soak the bristles with the appropriate solvent/water
 - a. Work the cleaning liquid throughout the bristles
 - b. Tilt the brush upward and work the cleaning liquid into the base of the bristles up to the ferrule
 - c. Clean dried paint from bristles and brush handle using a brass wire brush
 - d. Comb out bristles being sure to get paint out of the base of the bristles
 - e. Spin out excess solvent/water
5. Repeat rinsing step 4 as needed until all paint is removed and the cleaning liquid is completely clear
6. After the brush is thoroughly clean, spin out excess solvent/water and comb bristles (be sure the comb is clean).
7. Return brush to original keeper/container/jacket

Benefits: Maintain brush performance and painting quality, as well as save time and money.

Tips:

- When cleaning out water-based products, warm water and soap will make the cleaning faster and more effective.
- When cleaning out oil-based products it can be helpful to use previously used paint thinner for the first rinsing step.
- For first rinse, clean brush in a deep tray roller pan and use the flat surface to clean the dried paint out of the brush.
- Hanging a brush to dry will allow the bristles to keep their shape.



Photo and some of the above information courtesy of Wooster Brush