



Painting Fundamental - 12

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1. Factors in roller cover selection
 - a. Good paint pick-up from a tray or bucket
 - b. Good release of the paint onto the substrate
 - c. Quality level of finish desired
 - d. Production rate
 - e. Condition and texture of the substrate
 - f. Surface area and geometry
 - g. Ease in cleaning
 - h. Cost
 - i. Disposable/Reusable
 - j. Ease of use
2. Roller Cover Fabrics and Applications
 - a. Shearling – (also called lambswool/sheepskin)– the original roller fabric made from wool
 - i. Typical Uses
 1. Good for heavy textured surfaces
 2. Also available in rectangular shaped applicator pads for floors
 - ii. Pros
 1. Shed resistant
 2. Great paint capacity and release
 3. Increased production
 4. Durable
 - iii. Cons
 1. Expensive
 2. Prolonged soaking can lead to deterioration
 3. Leaves roller stipple
 4. Susceptible to leaving tracks at end of the roller
 - b. Synthetic fabrics – single fiber or blend of polyester, nylon, rayon or acrylic
 - i. Typical Uses
 1. Can be used with all coatings (check label or package for use, some cores may limit use)
 2. Wide range of applications based on fabric, size etc.
 - ii. Pros
 1. Broadest category of sizes, nap thickness, quality and cost
 2. Readily available

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- iii. Cons
 - 1. Too many choices
- c. 50/50 Blend – blend of lambswool and polyester
 - i. Typical Uses
 - 1. Good on textured surfaces
 - ii. Pros
 - 1. High performance from wool with high capacity and polyester to help resist compressing
 - iii. Cons
 - 1. Polyester fibers can get torn on rough surfaces
 - 2. Leaves roller stipple
 - 3. Susceptible to leaving tracks at end of the roller
- d. Microfiber – unique fabric with a velvety texture
 - i. Typical Uses
 - 1. Great for smooth surface application
 - ii. Pros
 - 1. Tiny fiber tips deliver a uniform finish
 - 2. Great finish quality
 - 3. Doesn't require a lot of pressure to release paint
 - 4. Thicker naps can still provide a smooth finish in less time
 - 5. Releases paint uniformly
 - 6. Less difficult than other varieties to create a smooth finish
 - iii. Cons
 - 1. Has less paint pick up than some other options
 - 2. Fabric quality can vary between suppliers
- e. Mohair – angora goat hair woven with synthetic fibers
 - i. Typical Uses
 - 1. Good for clear finishes and enamels on floors or trim (short nap)
 - ii. Pros
 - 1. Creates smooth glass like finish with superior results
 - 2. Easy to clean
 - iii. Cons
 - 1. Expensive
- f. Polyamide – yarn-like fabric
 - i. Typical Uses
 - 1. Bulky fabric makes it great for rough surfaces
 - ii. Pros
 - 1. High capacity and durability
 - 2. Great for applying paint to be back brushed
 - iii. Cons
 - 1. Leaves a stippled finish

ROLLER COVER SELECTION

g. Foam Roller – used as disposable or when over brushing is planned.

i. Typical Uses

1. Used to apply interior stains

ii. Pros

1. Cheap and disposable

iii. Cons

1. Limited use

3. Nap Size

a. 1/4" – 3/16" – smooth surfaces

Common Uses - Good for untextured walls and ceilings including drywall, plaster, smooth wood and metal. Used with enamels or glossier paints that are more likely to show some texture.

b. 3/8" – medium surfaces

Common Uses - Good for lightly textured walls and ceilings including drywall, plaster or wood, paneling or smooth concrete. Used with most sheens. Will leave just a bit of texture.

c. 1/2" – semi-rough

Common Uses -Used on medium textured walls and ceilings including drywall or wood, sand-finished plaster or acoustical tile with flat or low sheen paints.

d. 3/4" to 1" – rough

Common Uses - Used on textured walls and ceilings, light stucco, concrete block, rough-sawn wood or textured siding to get into crevices and voids.

e. 1.25" plus – extra rough

Common Uses - Highly textured walls & ceilings including drywall or plaster, brick, heavy stucco or corrugated metal.

4. Length of the roller cover

a. 3" – 4" – used on trim, wall cut-in, for small areas and uneven/curved surfaces

b. 6" – larger trim area, small wall spaces

c. 9" – average wall size roller

d. 14" – good for ceilings or walls, replacing the 9" for greater production

e. 18" – large areas with maximum production with a roller

5. Roller Diameter

a. Small diameter roller (aka hot dog, mini-roller etc.)

b. Standard diameter (1.5 inch)

c. Colossal – (1.75 inch)

6. Roller Construction

a. Knit (non-woven)

i. Description

1. Has looped backing secured to the roller with a single pass through. More open than

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woven.

ii. Uses

1. Good for flat, eggshell or satin finishes

iii. Pro

- iv. Great pick up and release

v.

vi. Cons

1. May not give as fine of a finish as woven
2. Can be hard to clean

b. Woven

i. Description

1. Backing has a tighter cross section. Pile yarns made with a twist which locks the fibers into the backing with a 2 pass through method.

ii. Uses

1. Good for enamels, primers, flat, eggshell, satin, semigloss and gloss.

iii. Pros

1. Virtually lint free finish

iv. Cons

1. Slightly more expensive necessitating reuse

Tips:

- Read the information on the back of the paint can for product recommendations.

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