How to Properly Paint Bare Wood

Save time and money, avoid extra coats, and prevent stain seepage.

Overview

A quick high quality paint job begins before you start painting. Knowing which primer to use and sanding between coats, for example, produce higher quality results with fewer coats. The following steps will guide you through the process of painting, including those important preparations, to get the best result with the least work.

Instructions

1. **Sand the surface.**

   Even though the wood appears bare and absorbent, this will:
   - remove the glaze commonly coating bare wood that reduces paint adhesion.
   - open up the grain of the wood, which also helps adhesion.

2. **Apply the primer.**
   - Use primer to block stains from knots, which seep though multiple coats of paint to ruin your finished work.
   - Choose a dedicated primer, which fills the wood grain better for a smoother topcoat.
   - Consider an oil-based primer to get the best protection against stains. Tip: if you use a spray, you will benefit from using of an oil-based product and have less cleanup.
   - Choose a tinted primer, i.e. a white primer for light or bright paint colors or a grey primer for darker colors, which brings the paint to its proper color with fewer coats.

3. **Prepare to paint.**
   - Choose the paint color, verifying the proper color base with the help of a paint expert.
   - Allow the primer applied earlier to dry before continuing.

4. **Lightly sand the surface.**

   As paint dries, slight bumps occur. Lightly sand the surface, just enough to smooth.

5. **Paint the surface.**

6. **Check that the paint color is even.**

   a. Allow the paint to dry before continuing.

   b. If the paint color is not even, repeat from step 4.

   c. If the paint color is even, you have finished painting. Congratulations.

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Start → Sand the surface. → Choose the primer. → Apply the primer.
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Start

Sand the surface.

Choose the primer.

Apply the primer.

Choose the paint color.

Allow the primer to dry.

Paint the surface.

Lightly Sand the surface.

Allow the paint to dry.

Is the color even?

N

Y

End