

SURFACE PREPARATION INSTRUCTIONS for Gilding, Glazing, Graining or Marbleizing

Before any glazing or other *faux* finish process begins, your painting contractor must prepare the surfaces to be painted. We cannot overemphasize the importance of careful surface preparation. The quality of the finished artwork depends directly upon the quality of the surface on which it is applied.

Here are two fundamental rules:

1. All surfaces must be **completely sealed** so that they are **uniformly absorbent**. A common problem occurs when walls that are pointed up (patched with spackle or joint compound) are repainted without thorough spot priming to seal the patches. Even though a patch may not be visible under the basecoat, it will reappear as a dark blotch when glaze is applied because it is porous and very absorbent when not properly sealed.
2. The basecoat must appear **smooth, opaque** and **solid covering**. Even though the basecoat will be covered by one or more layers of glaze, it will still show through the glaze in many areas. Also, the texture of the basecoat will affect the way the glaze adheres to the surface (*i.e.*, brush stroke, roller “dimple,” stop-and-start marks, skips and/or over spray in the basecoat will not only show through, but become more visible when glaze is applied).

Here are some specific procedures for various types of surfaces:

New drywall, plaster and un-primed wood:

Skim, fill and sand where necessary to make the surface smooth and even. Apply one coat of alkyd or latex primer. Apply two or more coats of the specified basecoat (see attached paint schedule) until the surface achieves a uniform color and sheen. Sand lightly between coats. Always wipe or tack the surface between coats to keep dust out of the wet paint.

Previously painted surfaces:

Sand all filled, mudded and spackled areas until smooth. Spot prime these areas carefully or re-prime the entire surface. Apply two or more coats of the specified basecoat (see attached paint schedule) until the surface achieves a uniform color and sheen. Sand lightly between coats. Always wipe or tack the surface between coats to keep dust out of the wet paint.

Wallpaper:

It is best to strip the wallpaper and prepare the surface according to the procedures for new sheetrock. If wallpaper cannot be removed, skim all seams with joint compound and sand smooth. Apply alkyd or latex primer to the entire surface. Apply two or more coats of the specified basecoat (see attached paint schedule) until the surface achieves a uniform color and sheen. Sand lightly between coats. Always wipe or tack the surface between coats to keep dust out of the wet paint.

Switch plate, Telephone and Electrical Outlet Covers:

Covers and screws should be removed, primed and painted with the same basecoat as the walls they cover, then, unless otherwise specified on the paint schedule, they should be reinstalled when dry.
NOTE: Unless this procedure is followed, damage to the wall may occur if covers are removed later.