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How to make whitewash with paint

Are you looking for innovative painting ideas for the home? Check out this article and learn more about some innovative painting ideas for the home.By Home Made SimpleColors affect our moods, even if we don't necessarily realize it. The better we understand their influence, the more we can use colors to our creative advantage. Here are some fun insights into the psychology of color.By Sara ElliottPainting can seem like such an easy task for the weekend warrior. A gallon of paint, a couple of brushes and you can give your home a whole new look. But there's more to it than that -- and a few more supplies to stock up on.By Bambi TurnerEach year, American homeowners throw out 64 million gallons of unused paint. That's enough to fill 128 Olympic swimming pools. But your color treasure doesn't have to turn to trash. There are many options for your old paint.By Heather KolichHere's the classic definition of boredom -- sitting around and watching paint dry. But if you knew exactly what happens during those minutes and hours when paint morphs from a sloshing liquid into a thin, glossy film, you'd be fascinated.By Kathy Price-RobinsonApply paint the speedy way with an airless sprayer. Learn when and how to use this handy device in this article.By Fix-It Club Photo: istockphoto.comSeems like just yesterday that the red brick in your family room looked perfect, but tastes change with time. Now you think it’s a little too dark and a little too red for the space. Your gut tells you it’s time for a change, but you’re intimidated by the thought of demolition and renovation. Rather than reach for the sledgehammer, grab a rag and a brush instead, and give your room a bright new look by following these instructions for whitewashing brick. While painting over brick with 100 percent latex paint will give the brick a solid, opaque color, whitewashing mutes the brick’s natural color with a translucent finish. The technique preserves the bricks’ natural, random variations, depending on how much paint is applied and how each individual brick absorbs it.Start with a fireplace or an interior brick wall that needs updating. Once you get the hang of it, there is no limit to the brick you can tackle, indoors or out.Clean the brick gently and thoroughly.Remove all lingering paint from the paint surface.Tape and cover any surfaces you wish to protect.Prepare the whitewash—a 50/50 solution of water and white latex paint.Apply the whitewash via brush or rag.Read on for full instructions!Tools & MaterialsPhoto: istockphoto.comHow to Whitewash BrickSTEP 1: Clean the brick gently and thoroughlyWhitewashing over dirty brick will not achieve the desired effect, so cleaning your brick and grout is the first order of business—and possibly the most intricate. Though brick is hardly a delicate-looking material, it can be easily damaged by harsh cleaning. Try the mildest method of cleaning first, and graduate step by step to more aggressive approaches until you find one that adequately addresses the dirt and soot.Below, listed from mildest to harshest, are several cleaning options to consider. Whichever you use, apply the cleaning solution according to the instructions and then rinse it off with a clean rag dipped in warm water.Dish soap: Mix one part mild grease-cutting dish soap and one part salt with just enough water to make a loose paste. Apply to the brick with a clean rag and, using a scrub brush, work the paste into the surface. Let sit for 10 minutes before you rinse.Boric acid: Add about one tablespoon of boric acid powder to one gallon of warm water. Wearing rubber gloves, dip the scrub brush into the solution and scrub the surface of the brick.Ammonia: Create a loose paste with one part ammonia, two parts mild grease-cutting dish soap, and one part pumice powder—which can be found in either beauty supply or arts-and-crafts stores. Wearing rubber gloves, use a clean rag to spread the mixture on the brick. Allow to sit for at least 10 minutes before rinsing.Trisodium phosphate: Wearing gloves and protective eyewear, mix about ½ cup trisodium phosphate (TSP) into a gallon of hot water. Dip your scrub brush in the solution and scrub the brick. If stains remain after rinsing, you can scrub again, increasing the TSP to one cup per gallon of hot water. Exercise extreme caution as this is a very strong, abrasive solution.STEP 2: Remove all lingering paint (optional)If your brick has ever been painted, there may still be chipping, flaking, or blistering paint left over on the brick that could cause your whitewashing to crackle. If you suspect that the paint has been there for decades, it is possible that you are dealing with toxic lead paint, which needs to be removed by a professional. If, however, you’re sure that’s not the case, move on to protecting the floor with a drop cloth—and yourself with goggles and a face mask—then prep a garbage bag to receive the old, dried paint you’re about to strip. Using a putty knife, wire brush, or paint scraper, carefully remove all the chipped or peeling paint from the brick.STEP 3: Protect the work areaTape and cover the surrounding areas so you don’t get paint on anything but the brick surface you intend to whitewash. For brick walls, that would include adjacent drywall and floors. If you’re lightening brick around a fireplace, protect the mantel, floor, and other furnishings by taping kraft paper around the mantel’s edges. Also tape around and over the firebox or fireplace insert, and lay drop cloths over the flooring. If you have fireplace doors, tape them shut. Whitewashing bricks inside the fireplace itself is not recommended.The importance of painter’s tape to this project cannot be overstated. Whitewashing may be easy, but nobody ever said it wasn’t going to be messy!Get a pro to do it for youReceive free, no-commitment estimates from pro painters near you. + STEP 4: Prepare the whitewashPrepare your whitewash: a 50/50 solution of water to white latex paint, stirred to an even consistency. If you find as you are working that you want the brick to be less white, add more water to further dilute the white paint. Conversely, if you want a whiter look, try a higher paint-to-water ratio. Take a moment to test a small, inconspicuous area with whitewash of several different paint-to-water ratios until you get the desired effect. (It might be a good idea to let the test area dry before you continue, so you’ll know what the dried whitewash will really look like.)STEP 5: Apply whitewashIt’s time to whiten, brighten, and lighten! Techniques for whitewashing brick vary greatly, but these two tried-and-true methods work for even beginner DIYers:Dip a brush into the thinned paint, and remove excess paint on a grate before applying so you don’t end up with a wall covered in drips. Begin to whitewash the brick in small sections, starting with the grout lines and then working your way to the faces of the bricks. Keep to one manageable two-foot-square patch at a time, because you’ll want to be able to quickly blot the bricks with a wadded-up paper towel so the surface looks washed, not painted. (Blotting or dabbing the paint instead of simply wiping creates a more natural texture.) Continue working in small sections until whitewashing is complete.Fill a spray bottle with water and, without leaving drips, lightly mist the brick area to be whitewashed. While the bricks are moist, lightly load a wadded cotton cloth with thinned paint and wipe it on the damp surface. If the mortar is deeply recessed from the brick, load a sash brush with a small amount of thinned paint and use a dry-brushing technique to reach both the mortar and the edges and ends of the bricks. After you’ve whitewashed all the bricks that can be painted with a rag, use a dry brush to fill in hard-to reach places. If a spot has too much color, mist it thoroughly and blot up the moisture along with some of the paint.No matter which method you choose to whitewash brick, keep in mind that brick is a very porous material that will soak up the wash. It’s possible that after the first coat the paint will appear more opaque than you would like. Don’t be concerned about this. Over the next few hours, the bricks will absorb the paint and begin to show through.Let your handiwork dry overnight, then return to bask in your whiter, brighter living space the next day. Any lingering paint smell from your diluted whitewash solution can be erased with an onion—more info here.Get a pro to do it for youReceive free, no-commitment estimates from pro painters near you. + William Waldron When it comes to paint finishes, you might consider high-gloss to be the most daring of options. However, it's actually a common paint finish designers use to add visual interest to an interior. We checked in with Andrea Magno, a Benjamin Moore color and design expert, to find out her top high-gloss paint ideas. Use her pointers as inspiration to experiment with this versatile paint finish in your home, from millwork in a library to a living room ceiling.ELLE Decor: What's the best way to use high-gloss paint in a home? Andrea Magno: High-gloss finishes are commonly used on interior doors, trim, high-traffic areas, and exterior doors. However, you can use high-gloss finishes almost anywhere you want to create a unique atmosphere, but be sure that careful attention is paid to preparation. High-gloss finishes can be a great way to add dimension or detail to a room, or consider using the same color on the walls and trim, but vary the finish. For example, select one white, such as Chantilly Lace OC-65, and use it on the walls in an eggshell finish with trim and millwork painted in the same color but in a high-gloss. ED: Is there a certain type of decorating style that helps to balance the dramatic look of high-gloss paint?Magno: Many decorating styles can handle a high-gloss finish, but using it deliberately is important. Glamorous high-gloss looks are often used in living rooms, dining rooms, on millwork in a library, or to accentuate trim and wainscoting in an entry, with the objective of making a statement whether the style is traditional or modern. Plus, take into consideration the other finishes used in the room. High-gloss amplifies light, giving it a romantic, shimmering look, especially when juxtaposed with a softer finish. Accent pieces with rich texture, such as a wool throw, sisal rug, and even unglazed ceramic vases, balance the room. The key is to use the finish in a way that will complement the overall look of the room and not overwhelm the space. ED: Can you share any pointers on choosing paint colors in a high-gloss finish? Magno: Lighter shades of high-gloss finishes can accentuate architectural detail without overwhelming an existing color scheme. But to add drama, a deep-colored high-gloss is hard to beat because there is more contrast between the dark color of the surface and the areas where light is reflected. The lacquer-like finish is accentuated with darker colors, transforming an ordinary surface into a luxury design. In any hue or depth, high-gloss finishes will make spaces more interesting and add highlights. ED: How are Benjamin Moore customers using high-gloss paint right now? What's trending?Magno: With the interest in painting cabinetry and millwork, high-gloss has become a popular finish, as it is highly durable and easy to clean. There are also great examples of high-gloss finishes being used as a highlight or detail in a room, particularly if there is exceptional moulding or architectural details that deserve attention. For smaller accent pieces painted in a high-gloss, this finish offers the opportunity to use a bold or deep color, adding to the overall look. ED: Any other do’s and don’ts to consider?Magno: When used on cabinets or furniture, a high-gloss finish will deliver a shiny, lacquer-like look that is easy to keep clean. It is important to know that high-gloss finishes are not very forgiving when it comes to surface imperfections, so it is critical that the prep work and application is meticulous. Also, the glass-like finish of a high-gloss surface creates a significant amount of reflectance, which can create glare and eye fatigue. It's important to balance this finish with more matte surfaces, whether it's other walls, textiles, or rugs. This content is created and maintained by a third party, and imported onto this page to help users provide their email addresses. You may be able to find more information about this and similar content at piano.io

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