

## PAINT CARE INSTRUCTIONS

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### **Recommendations for washing painted surfaces**

There are varying degrees of washability of painted surfaces. As a general rule, it is very difficult to wash a conventional flat paint without causing burnishing of the surface. Burnishing is commonly associated with the appearance of shiny patches or spots on flat and low sheen finishes after washing or being rubbed. It is actually the polishing of unprotected pigment on the paint finish. Once the surface has been burnished, it has been permanently marred and must be repainted or touched-up to be repaired. The higher the gloss of the paint, or the fortification using advanced resins and harder pigments the more resistant to burnishing it becomes.

### **Things to avoid with latex paints**

Latex paints have poor solvent resistance. Commercial cleaners that contain solvents can attack a latex finish. Therefore, avoid the use of most off the shelf bottled cleaners and any powder or cream abrasive cleaners. Latex paints can be water sensitive up to 30 days after application and should not be washed during this period.

### **Things to avoid with alkyd paints**

When washing alkyd paints, cleaners containing ammonia must be avoided because they will cause yellowing of the paint finish. Strong solutions of cleaners containing phosphates can cause a loss of gloss in alkyds. Never use abrasive powder or cream cleaners.

### **Washing procedures**

As a general recommendation, we suggest the use of a soft cellulose sponge for any cleaning on painted surfaces. Wash cloths and rags used for washing can actually be too coarse for some paint finishes (especially flat and low-gloss latexes). The coarseness of the wash cloth or rag can actually cause a sanding action of the surface and actually remove some of the paint. Never wash in a circular motion, this causes undue pressure exerted at one particular spot and will definitely cause burnishing on flat and low-gloss finishes. We suggest a steady even pressure, side to side or up and down motion. Always use some form of soap. The soap not only helps to remove dirt from the surface but the soap acts as a lubricant. This helps to protect the paint from being burnished. The use of water only, on flat and low gloss paints can actually increase the chance of burnishing.

**Flat paints (alkyd or latex)**

Spot clean only. Use a mild detergent (such as dish liquid soap), with a damp sponge. Lubricate the stain with the soap and water. Wipe gently - DO NOT RUB!!! Rinse the area gently with clean water and a sponge.

**Low-gloss latex** (Washable Flats, Eggshell, Low-Lustre, Satin, Velvet)

This surface is washable and marks can be easily removed; however, it can be easily burnished if care is not taken. Use a mild detergent (such as dish liquid soap), with a damp sponge. Lubricate the stain with the soap and water. Use a side to side or up and down cleaning motion with mild even pressure, making sure that the area being washed remains wet and does not dry out. Rinse the area gently with clean water and a sponge.

**Alkyd eggshell melamine**

Will have similar washability features as a Semi-Gloss finish.

**Semi-gloss (alkyd or latex)**

Very washable, will withstand heavy washing and is not easily burnished. Use similar washing procedures as others but less care needs to be used when washing.