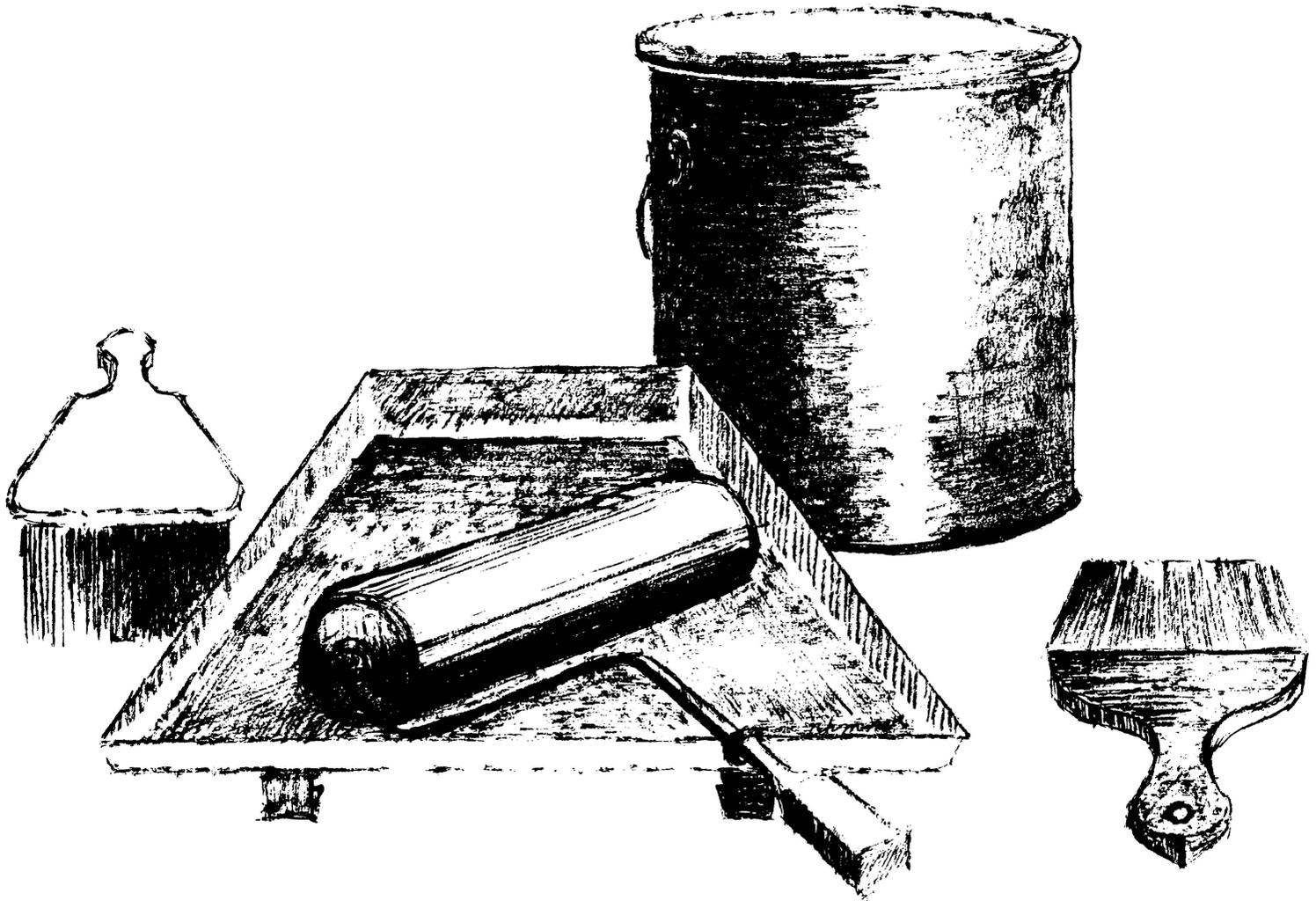


# POINTS FOR PAINTERS



MARY B. SETTLE, HOUSE IMPROVEMENT SPECIALIST

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE  
VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
BLACKSBURG, VIRGINIA

CIRCULAR 900

JANUARY, 1962

# Points for Painters

## (House Interiors)

### Assemble Supplies and Equipment

1. Paint — kind suited to purpose, good quality, appropriate color, in quantity sufficient for completing the job.

2. Thinner — if needed, according to directions on label.

3. Other supplies and equipment — suggested items:

- Brushes for wall, trim, sash
- Roller set
- Can opener
- Screw driver
- Wooden paddle
- Masking tape
- Paint guard or shield
- Putty knife
- Sanding block
- Sandpaper
- Waxpaper or aluminum foil
- Stiff wire, 5" or 6"
- Empty cans, 2 or 3
- Drop cloths; old newspapers
- Brush for dusting
- Paper or foil plate, for paint can
- Putty or crack filler for wood
- Spackling compound for plaster
- Paint and varnish remover
- Brush cleaners
- Protective gloves
- Old rags for cleaning up
- Stepladder
- 2 sawhorses and 1 or 2 heavy boards for reaching ceiling

### Prepare the Room for Painting

1. Remove curtains and rods, shades or blinds, pictures, hooks, etc. Remove as much furniture as possible. Cover well with old cloths or sheet plastic all items left in room. Cover floor with drop cloths or newspapers.

2. Fixtures not to be painted — loosen or remove.

3. Windowpanes — use masking tape or a paint guard to protect glass.

### Prepare Yourself

1. Read the labels on paint cans and follow directions carefully.

2. Wear old clothes and shoes; wear protective gloves, or use a protective hand cream.

### Prepare the Surface To Be Painted

1. **Clean the surface** by wiping or brushing off dust. Wash off heavy soil, grease, or stickiness. Use trisodium phosphate (TSP) about 1 tbsp. to 1 gallon water; or other mild household cleaner. Rinse, dry.

Wash ceiling first; then walls and trim, working upward from floor to prevent streaking; wash, rinse, and dry small areas at a time.

2. **Prepare otherwise according to previous finish and condition.**

a. Remove old calcimine by washing with 1 c. vinegar in 1 gal. water. Rinse; dry. Apply primer-sealer over other "cold water" paints.

b. Fill all cracks, dents, etc., with plaster or wood crack filler, putty, or spackling compound, after any primer is dry. Paint over patches before applying the finish coat.

Plaster cracks repaired before painting are usually filled with spachtle or a patching plaster. If you are using an emulsion paint, mix the spachtle with some of the paint instead of with water. This keeps the spachtle from being so porous and absorbing so much paint. Then when you apply the flat paint over the entire surface, the result will be a more uniform color.

c. Caulk around windows or bathtub where joints are open.

d. To remove gloss from varnish or enameled surfaces, wash with sal soda solution or with TSP (2 to 4 tbsp. to 1 gal. tepid water). Rinse and dry.

e. Scrape off any loose paint or varnish; sand smooth. Or remove old finish entirely with paint and varnish remover.

f. Remove rust from hardware, radiators, or other metal before painting.

g. If old surface is mildewed, remove stains according to special directions.

### Follow A Good Order of Work

1. Paint ceiling first, then window walls, and interior walls last.

2. Start work at a corner.

3. Paint walls from ceiling down toward baseboard in 2' - 3' strips.

4. Complete the ceiling or an entire wall, before stopping work.

(over)

5. If woodwork is being painted where walls are to be papered, complete the painting of woodwork before papering is done.

6. If wall and woodwork are being done with the same paint, do the woodwork as you proceed with each wall.

7. In painting windows, do sash first, then frame, and trim last.

8. Baseboards — work from center toward edges; protect floor and wall with a metal or cardboard paint guard or shield.

9. Paneled doors — start at top, paint in order: mouldings, panels, edge.

10. To avoid closing off a stairway to paint steps, paint every other step, let dry, then paint the alternate steps.

### Observe These Don'ts

1. Don't stand on the top of a step ladder. Get a longer ladder.

2. Don't overload your brush or roller.

3. Don't forget to keep brush or roller in condition during rest periods or for overnight. Wrap closely with aluminum foil or waxpaper, and lay flat.

4. Don't fail to clean brushes and roller properly when job is done. Paint can labels indicate what solvent to use in cleaning brushes.

a. When using oil-base paints: brush may be suspended in solvent for short periods between jobs; when job is done, remove as much paint as possible by brushing and rinsing in solvent thinner; wash with detergent and water, rinse thoroughly; hang up by handle to dry.

c. When using water emulsion paints, use only detergent and water for cleaning brushes.

c. Wrap clean dry brush in paper or plastic to keep shape and free from dust. Lay on flat surface; or store in container, bristles up.

5. Don't abuse a well-painted surface. Use only mild detergents or non-abrasive cleaners for washing woodwork and walls, so that paint will not be removed in the cleaning process.

Soiled spots on a flat wall paint, when rubbed hard enough, may leave a shiny spot. To eliminate the shine, scour the spot lightly with a very mild abrasive on a small pad or sponge, feathering out the edges. Then wash the wall from one corner or opening to the next, so that differences in color will not show up.



Issued in furtherance of cooperative extension work in agriculture and home economics, Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture. L. B. Dietrick, director, Agricultural Extension Service, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia.