

## Welcome to our guide to painting interior walls.

In this section we will take you through the whole process including the preparation through to the final coat.

Painting is one of the easiest and most rewarding DIY tasks around the home, you can transform a room with the minimum amount of work and time.

We will assume you have decorated/painted the ceiling and any woodwork. If not, and you are intending to then it is advisable to complete these tasks first, please see our guides:

- Papering a ceiling
- Painting a ceiling

Doing the tasks which apply in this order will make the job easier.

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### To complete this task you will need the following items:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Suitable interior paint</li><li>• small brush (cutting in)</li><li>• Large brush and kettle or Roller and Tray</li><li>• Filler (if required)</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dust Sheets</li><li>• Fine Sand paper (if required)</li><li>• Sugar soap (or similar)</li></ul> |
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When working at heights always ensure that the structure is safe and secure. Never stretch out, always get down and re-position the scaffold.



### Preparing the walls for painting

If your walls need stripping before painting then please see our guide to removing wallpaper.

If you have a radiator that needs removing the please see our guide to removing a radiator.

First remove curtains and fixtures, place all furnishings in the middle of the room and cover with dustsheets. Remove any loose floor coverings and use dustsheets to protect any other floor covering from paint splashes and dust.

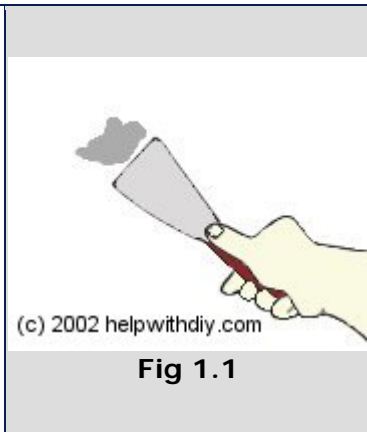
Wash down the wall with sugarsoap or a suitable detergent to remove all dust and debris.

Inspect the wall surfaces for cracks, holes and any loose plaster.

For small cracks use a suitable fine filler, for larger cracks and holes use a more suitable filler (see manufacturer's instructions).

To check for any loose plaster, tap the wall around any suspect areas and remove any loose flaky plaster.

When filling try and leave a nice smooth finish, it is better to leave the filled area slightly proud of the surrounding area and then sand down with a fine sandpaper until flush.



### Cutting in to the ceiling

**Note:** To give the best finish only cut in one wall at a time, paint that wall, then start on the next.

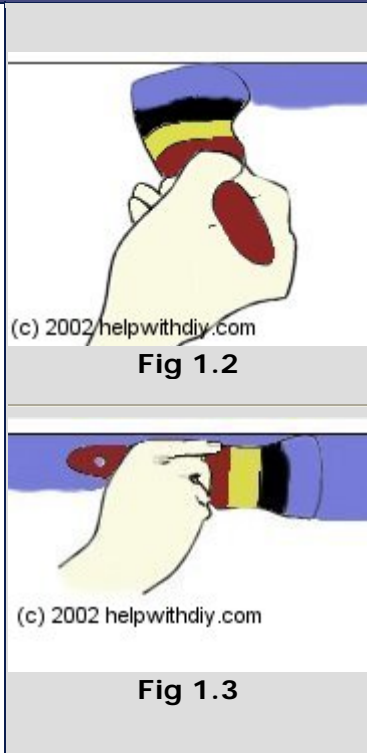
The next step is to cut in around the ceiling, skirting, corners, light switches, sockets and any doors/windows.

To cut in to the ceiling use the brush as shown in **Fig 1.2** paint along the top of the wall keeping the edge of the brush tight to the ceiling, use firm steady strokes to give yourself a nice straight edge.

Then turn the brush and hold as shown in **Fig 1.3** and go over the paint again with a steady stroke to smooth the previous coat, this time there is no need to get too close to the ceiling but close enough to smooth the paint out nicely.

You can use this technique to cut in around the horizontal runs of any windows, doors, sockets and light switches.

To cut in to the skirting boards use a similar technique holding the brush at a 90 degree angle to the skirting board, then turn the brush and go over the paint again to smooth the coat.



### Cutting in around windows and doors

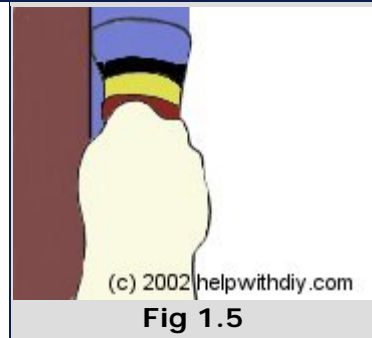
To cut in around the vertical runs of doors and windows is the technique used above but this time hold the brush as shown in **Fig 1.4** keeping tight into the corner with the edge of the brush.

Then using the brush as shown in **Fig 1.5** go over the paint again with a firm steady stroke to smooth the previous coat, again there is no need to get too close to the corner, just enough to smooth the paint out nicely at the edge.

You can use this technique to cut in around the vertical



runs of any windows, doors, sockets and light switches.



### Applying the first coat - Using a brush

When painting interior walls paint from top to bottom working away from windows as in **Fig 1.6**.

#### Using a brush

Use the biggest brush you feel comfortable with, this will allow you to cover a greater area quicker and therefore lessen the chance of the paint drying out too quickly at any edges.

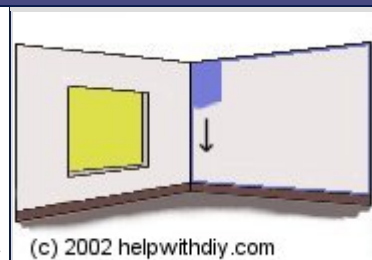
If you are using a paint kettle (recommended) then fill the kettle so it is half the depth of the bristles on your brush, this will help avoid overloading the brush.

Use the brush as shown in **Fig 1.7** making a nice smooth vertical action with your wrist, paint one section at a time ensuring to keep any wet edges fresh as this will improve the finish.

With corners always paint outwards over the edge as shown in **Fig 1.8** this will reduce the chances of any paint collecting at the edge and forming runs.

Try to ensure you catch any runs in the paint as they happen, if you find a run that has already dried out too much to smooth with the brush then you will need to sand it down with fine sandpaper, and then recoat.

Apply the second coat in the same way.



**Fig 1.6**



**Fig 1.7**



**Fig 1.8**

### Applying the first coat - Using a roller

### Using a roller - short pile

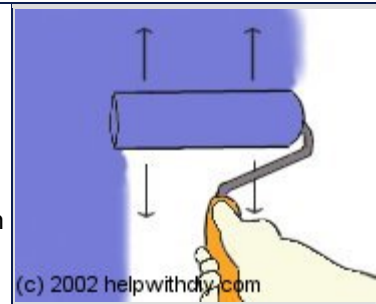
Fill the roller tray to a depth so that the paint doesn't rise above the pile of the roller, this will help to avoid overloading the roller.

Place the roller into the paint and then roll it back and forth over the top section of the tray to distribute the paint evenly around the pile.

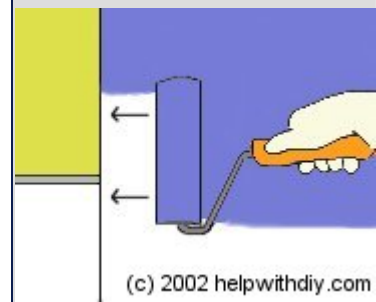
With your roller use smooth vertical actions (see **Fig 1.9**) to give an even coat, ensuring to keep the wet edges fresh as do each section of the wall, finish each section with smooth strokes in one direction (down or up) this will improve the finish.

When painting to an edge always roll to the edge as shown in **Fig 2.0** this will help avoid a build up of paint on the edge.

Apply the second coat in the same way.



**Fig 1.9**



**Fig 2.0**