



SOLUTIONS

WASHING PAINTED INTERIOR WALLS AND TRIM

When washing painted interior walls and trim, remember that gloss or semi-gloss enamels are less likely to be damaged by cleaning than flat latex paints. Any cleaning solution should first be tested in an inconspicuous corner. If the wall color and finish look the same (but cleaner), it is likely the cleaning solution is safe for use on your walls.

Most interior painted surfaces can be washed or spot cleaned with a solution of water and mild detergent (such as hand dishwashing liquid) or mild commercial household cleaner, so long as the label indicates it is safe for painted surfaces. The cleaned surfaces should be rinsed thoroughly with clear water immediately.

For very dirty interior painted surfaces, a stronger alkali solution such as two tablespoons of ammonia, one tablespoon of trisodium phosphate (TSP) or two tablespoons of laundry detergent powder mixed in one gallon of warm (not hot) water can be used. Please note, however, that the use of a stronger solution may remove some of the paint. As before, the cleaning solution should first be tested in an inconspicuous corner, and rinsed off thoroughly. Other tips for washing interior painted surfaces include:

1. Before washing, dust or vacuum walls to remove loose soil.
2. Use one bucket for washing solution and one for rinsing, and a natural sponge for each bucket.
3. Wear rubber gloves to protect hands.
4. Start washing at the bottom and work up, so the cleaning solution does not run down the dirty wall and cause streaks that are hard to remove.
5. Rub gently to avoid damage to paint.
6. Wash and rinse one area; then do the next overlapping area.
7. After doing several areas, dry off excess moisture with soft absorbent cloths or towels, which can be laundered and reused.
8. Newly applied paint must be allowed to properly cure before washing.
Suggested cure times are based on 50% relative humidity at 75°F for 98% cure:
Flat wall paint = 30 to 45 days
Satin, semi-gloss and gloss wall and trim paints = 60 to 90 days.

Please note that full, 100% adhesion and hardness can take up to 4-6 months or more depending upon drying conditions, substrate type, and surface cleanliness. High humidity and/or low temperatures can extend these times.

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