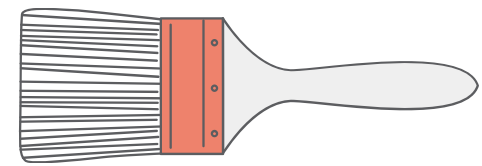


How to Use Clay Paint



Clay paint is not just for furniture. Clay paint is great for canvas art, crafts, fabric and decorative items.

1

Clean

Your project may not require any prep, but you should definitely clean it very well before you start painting.

Paint adheres best to a clean surface and it's not possible to know for sure if there is residue on your piece that is invisible.

Favorite Cleaning Products:

Simple Green or Krud Kutter

LA's Totally Awesome All Purpose Cleaner

50/50 mix white vinegar/water

Washing (if possible) with water and Dawn

Non lint paper towels

Always read the product instructions. Some cleaners need to be diluted or rinsed after application. There are some cleaning products that are not compatible with some paints or finishing products.

2

Prep

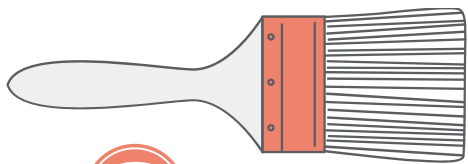
Many clay, milk, chalk and mineral paints are advertised as "no prep." This is because they adhere wonderfully to many surfaces. The amount of prep work really depends on the initial condition of the piece. Some pieces will require some gluing, wood filling or sanding. You should always clean a piece before and after you do prep work. Sanding can bury residue deeper into your project and later show as stains on the surface after your project is complete.

Sanding:

Generally, clay, chalk and mineral types of paint apply better if you DON'T sand. Sanding allows more crevices for the paint to soak into and may result in bleed through.

If you're concerned about bleed through when you are painting a darker piece a lighter color or painting over red toned woods consider using a primer or a sealer before painting to help prevent bleed through and needing additional paint coats. Shellac as a base is very good to prevent bleed through.

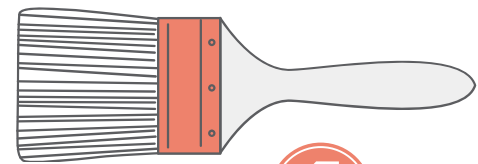
Sanding is suggested if you have any rough patches or if the surface is high gloss. With high gloss surfaces it is worth doing a light sanding with a medium grit sandpaper, like 120, to give the paint a little bit of tooth to grip on to.



3

Paint

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4

Seal

Always choose a good quality paint brush to work with. Clay paint is reactivated by water until it is cured. Light brush strokes are recommended to avoid paint pulling up. You can use a water spray bottle to continue to move the paint, blend colors to get your desired final look and decrease visible brush strokes. Paint dries pretty quickly to the touch and normally cures in about 30 days. Clay paint is non toxic and contains no VOCs so it is safe to paint inside!

Painting Technique Ideas

Layer:

Unlike other types of paint, clay paint is not self leveling. This allows for amazing layering and texture that can be combined with distressing for one of a kind pieces.

Dilute:

Clay paint tends to be a thicker paint, but blends very well with water and other colors. You can dilute your paint until you achieve the transparency and smoothness that you want. Since it is so strongly pigmented the paint will maintain rich colors even after it is diluted.

This is a great technique for white washing, color washing and water color techniques.

Distress:

Clay paint distresses easily before it is sealed. The absence of latex and acrylic components allows for easy wet distressing. Wet distressing gives a distinct look without the mess and damage of traditional sanding.

Most clay, chalk and mineral paint is very porous and requires a top coat so it doesn't continue to absorb items in the environment. Always read the product label for proper instructions, to ensure if it is made for indoor or outdoor use and if it is compatible with the paint you've used.

When choosing a finish consider:

- The paint color used
- The use or traffic the item will get
- The maintenance the finish requires
- The desired sheen
- If the item is an indoor or outdoor item

Popular Finishes

Wax (beautiful hand buffed appearance, great for creating distressed looks, avoid using these in high traffic or warm areas including outdoors, requires more frequent reapplication than other finishes)

Polyurethane (very durable, long lasting, avoid using these on white or light colors, use non-solvent containing products)

Glazes (great for creating distressed looks, long lasting)

Top Coats (usually very durable, long lasting)

Many finish types can be tinted to create a new look or to better blend with your paint color choice. Always read the product instructions before use. Solvent free finishes are recommended with clay paint.