

TYPE OF FINISH (PAINTS)	PRODUCT DESCRIPTION & METHOD OF APPLICATION	AVERAGE PRODUCT COST	COMMON USES	LEVEL OF DURABILITY
<p>LATEX PAINTS</p> <p>(WATER-BASED, INCLUDING THE STANDARD BASE ACRYLICS)</p>	<p>The latex paints referred to here, are the standard latex variety – including the base acrylics – these are not the 'pure acrylics'. The label on the paint can should tell you if it's 'pure' (or 100%) acrylic latex. Like all latex paints, they're easy to apply, dry quickly, and clean up with water. Best results obtained with 2 to 3 light coats. Huge assortment of colors available, along with nearly infinite custom color choices – to suit a wide variety of decorating needs.</p> <p>Latex paints are also available in several finish varieties -- like egg-shell, satin, semi-gloss, and flat.</p> <p>Use proper latex brushes – a poly/nylon blend -- and correct nap rollers for best results. Be sure to have latex paint shaken well, and stir again just before using.</p> <p>When using latex paints on surfaces like walls, keep in mind that they dry very quickly – you'll need to smooth out roller “stripes”, drips, runs and brush marks as they occur. Wait at least two hours before additional coats.</p>	<p>Generally speaking, the base latex paints are the least expensive of all paints. Average price per gallon is between \$15 and \$25, depending on manufacturer and grade.</p> <p>Larger, five-gallon buckets usually retail for around \$70 to \$80 and up.</p> <p>Quart-size prices start at around \$10 to \$12, and go up with the grade of paint.</p> <p>Of course, sale prices and discount outlets can affect prices.</p>	<p>Recommended for interior walls, ceilings, and low-contact areas. Some latex paints can be used on exterior surfaces – however, it's best to make careful choices when considering an exterior-latex application, like on siding and window and door trim. Pure acrylic latexes are usually better.</p> <p>Some latexes are poor choices for exterior surfaces -- on the other hand, there are other excellent choices for exterior projects, like latexes that are specially-formulated for these very purposes.</p> <p>A couple of good exterior-latex choices, include any of the higher-quality acrylic-latex paints, vinyl acrylic latexes, (more about these, below) as well as some of the better quality latex-enamels. Again, be careful when selecting latex for exterior purposes – ask a knowledgeable paint store associate or other paint professional, for more help.</p>	<p>Latex paints are fade-resistant, and have excellent color retention. They are also flexible, and have the ability to 'breathe' – allowing moisture to escape.</p> <p>Modern latexes are truly remarkable, and seem to be improving every year.</p> <p>Straight latexes don't have quite level of durability as other latex combinations, or alkyds. But they're safer for the environment, and finished surfaces touch-up easily – and wipe clean fairly well, using methods that are mild.</p>
<p>ALKYD PAINTS</p> <p>(OIL-BASED)</p>	<p>Alkyd, or oil-based paints are not as well-handled by beginners, due to their characteristic slow-drying.</p> <p>Alkyds have a tendency to 'sag', and most beginners aren't familiar with how to correct this problem.</p> <p>These paints also have strong odors, and are more difficult to clean up. Mineral spirits are needed for brush and roller cleaning.</p> <p>When painting interior spaces with alkyds, be sure to have proper ventilation – it's also recommended that you wear a respirator.</p> <p>If your painting skills are fairly good, you'll be pleased with alkyd's workable nature – it's easy to smooth out brush marks, drips, and runs – due to the slower drying time. Alkyds 'flow out' better, and are easier to level than latex paints – again, this is mostly due to longer drying time – but the painter's level of skill is also a factor here. Be sure to use the correct brushes – china bristle or natural bristle -- and rollers, designed for use with oil-based paints.</p>	<p>Alkyd paints tend to cost a little more than latexes – a gallon will normally set you back around \$16 to \$22.</p> <p>This is, of course, dependant on quality.</p> <p>Some alkyds, like enamels, run a little higher yet, and are only available in quart sizes – these quart sizes always cost more, ounce per ounce.</p>	<p>Alkyd paints are well-known for their superior adhesion to older wood surfaces, like weather-beaten clapboard siding, 'chalky' surfaces, and exterior painting jobs in cold weather. Because of its oil content, alkyd paint penetrates wood surfaces better than latex paints – they also have a very strong initial bond to wood surfaces.</p> <p>Alkyds should be considered as a top choice, when high-contact areas like baseboards and door trim are to be painted. Glosses and semi-gloss varieties hold up the best under traffic, but they also tend to show every detail – which can be good or bad.</p> <p>Moulding details show off well with alkyds – but on the other hand, scratches and dents will also stand out – so keep this in mind. Alkyd paint works well on wooden entry doors, because it won't stick to weather stripping.</p>	<p>For durability, alkyd paints are tough to beat.</p> <p>As already stated, alkyds are best suited for high-traffic and high-contact areas, both indoors and out.</p> <p>Wood surfaces painted with alkyds, are easy to clean -- painted surfaces can be scrubbed without worry. Of course, you want to use the appropriate cleaning methods to clean such surfaces.</p> <p>Normally, you can simply wipe these surfaces down with warm, soapy water.</p> <p>Don't use harsh cleaners or scrubbing pads that would scratch the paint.</p>
<p>100 % PURE ACRYLIC LATEX PAINTS</p> <p>(WATER-BASED, WITH ACRYLIC RESINS)</p>	<p>Today's acrylic latex paints have become real favorites with professional painters and do-it-yourselfers alike. The acrylic latex paint discussed here, refers to the 100% acrylic type ('pure') -- not the 'vinyl/acrylic' latex. (The 'vinyl' acrylic' is a cheaper type of acrylic latex, with limited applications.)</p> <p>The latest variety of 100% acrylic latex paints, have become a top choice for both interior and exterior wood surfaces – and can be easily applied with nylon/poly combination brushes, and good quality roller covers. The water-base means clean up will be easy.</p> <p>Novice painters will find acrylic latex easy to roll out, and easy to brush.</p> <p>Good coverage can be expected with the better quality paints. Latexes with flat and satin finishes have the best 'hiding' capabilities. Pure acrylic latex paints don't have the fumes that alkyds do – in fact, these paints have almost no fumes at all – some even claim to have “zero fumes.”</p>	<p>High-quality, 100% acrylic latex paints, will run about \$25 to \$35 per gallon. These paints are more pricey than water-based, but worth the extra cost, due to their superior performance.</p> <p>A gallon of good-quality, 100% acrylic latex can be had for about \$28.</p> <p>Quart sizes are very costly, so it's best to buy one only if it's a real necessity. It pays to shop around for these 100% acrylics.</p>	<p>The 'pure' acrylic paints have a wide range of applications – most wood surfaces will readily accept these superior finishes – both interior and exterior alike. Be sure to use the correct type of paint – there are dozens of different pure latex paints for many different applications. Certain types work best on exterior surfaces – some are better for exterior wood trim, while others are best suited for clapboard siding. Likewise with the interior paints.</p> <p>These pure latex acrylics are breathable, allowing moisture to pass through the paint. Choose this paint whenever a high-performance, long-lasting paint is desired.</p> <p>An excellent choice for kitchens, hallway trim, offices, and anywhere a strong, durable, attractive finish is desired.</p>	<p>These 100% acrylic paints are tough enough to withstand commercial applications – they're used in hospitals, schools, and hotels.</p> <p>So, standing up to most household environments is not a problem. Use egg-shell and semi-gloss (as opposed to flat or satin) for easier cleaning of walls.</p> <p>These paints also have outstanding gloss-retention and fade resistance – more so than any other paint.</p> <p>As it is with all paints, the glossier the finish, the more durable it will be.</p>
<p>WOOD PRIMERS</p> <p>OIL-BASED PRIMERS</p>	<p>Whether it's sprayed on, or brushed on wood surfaces, good oil-based primer has two main functions; to block stains, knots, and other discolorations – and provide a clean, continuous, mechanical bonding foundation for the top-coat of paint. Stubborn stains and knots may require an extra spot-coat. Oil-based primers are fairly simple to apply – use a china-bristle brush, and be sure to clean surface well beforehand. Dry time can be 4 to 8 hours. Clean up with mineral spirits.</p>	<p>A word to the wise; don't buy cheap primer ! Gallons of good quality, oil-based primer will run between \$15 and \$20, while quarts will run in the \$8 to \$12 price range.</p>	<p>Always follow the 'paint-compatibility' rule, when using primer; use water-base primer with latex top-coats, and oil-based primers with alkyd paint top-coats. Oil primers are best used on old, damaged, weathered wood surfaces, due to its excellent penetration. Oil primers also excel at stain-blocking, especially on pesky knots, where water based don't do nearly as well. These primers do well on fire-damaged and distressed wood.</p>	<p>Oil primers are tops when it comes to durability. They bond well and can be used in cold weather. Used extensively in fire-damage restorations, these primers seal-in the 'smoke', keeping odors contained. They offer good water resistance, too.</p>
<p>WATER-BASED PRIMERS</p>	<p>Water-based primers are adequate for some jobs, but the oil-based type are often give better performance.</p> <p>These primers are usually brushed-on, and always followed by latex top-coats. They're just as easy to use as latex paints. The key to good results, is to prep surfaces well, and 'rough-up' (lightly sand) the surface before priming, creating a mechanical bonding foundation for the primer. Water-based primers don't adhere well to surfaces that are too smooth. Clean up with water.</p>	<p>Water-based primers run a bit less than oil. You can generally find a gallon of good-quality, water-based primer for about \$15 or \$16.</p> <p>Quarts of it will run between \$7 and \$10.</p>	<p>For new wood work, water-based primers are often a first choice, due to ease of application, cost, and compatibility with latex paints --- although some choose oil primers as a base for premium, acrylic latex top-coats. You can use oil primer with a latex paint top-coat, but never use a water-based primer with an oil/alkyd paint top-coat. Water-based primers are usually reserved for interior wood applications.</p>	<p>Water-based primers aren't as good at stain-blocking as oil primers, but they are adequate in the durability department – they hold their own when used indoors, and offer a decent level of protection. They're fast drying and breathable.</p>