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Home » Arts & Entertainment » Art Painting Supplies » Remove Oil Based Paint » How to Paint Lockers

How to Paint Lockers

By [Ryan Lawrence](#), eHow Contributor

Before you even think about finishing a metal locker with paint, take the necessary steps to improve the metal's adhesive qualities to prevent rapid paint peeling. Because lockers are slick and nonporous, their surfaces resist paint adhesion. Professionals use an acidic etching primer to prepare metallic items for painted finishes. If you want your lockers to maintain their new finishes for a long period of time, do the same. Choose a resilient enamel for your finish, or chipping and cracking could result.



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Things You'll Need

Water-based degreasing soap

Coarse sponge

Rags

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Instructions

1 Wash the locker to prepare it for accepting a base primer. Scrub the locker with the degreaser and the sponge. Rinse all the soap from the locker with wet rags. Let the locker dry for two hours.

2 Lay down painter's tape to any surfaces that are to remain unpainted. Place a drop cloth on the floor beneath the locker.

3 Coat the locker with galvanized metal-etching primer, using a paint roller equipped with a foam roller. Roll as much of the locker as you can and use a polyester brush to touch up the areas unreachable with the paint roller. Let the locker dry for two hours.

4 Clean the etching agent from the paint brush and roller with plain tap water.

5 Paint the locker with an enduring oil-based enamel, using the paint roller for large areas and the paint brush for hard-to-reach areas. Let the locker dry for at least two hours.

6 Clean the enamel paint from the brush and roller, using mineral spirits.

Tips & Warnings

Don't use an acrylic or latex primer on a locker. Water-based coatings won't bond to

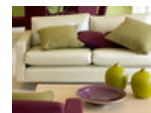
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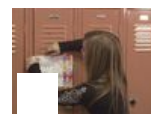
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metallic surfaces.

Nylon brushes tend to generate flawed finishes. For best results, touch up the locker when needed with a polyester paintbrush.

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