

How to: Paint with Chalk Paint® – The Basics

Welcome to the beginner's guide to Chalk Paint®! Learn the basics of painting furniture with Annie Sloan.

Annie Sloan's Video Tutorial Highlights

Hello, I'm Annie Sloan and welcome to my beautiful studio! It's back to basics time.

Annie Sloan demonstrates the simplicity and effectiveness of Chalk Paint® through a live painting session on a 1930s cabinet. The key points from her tutorial include:

No Prep Work Required

- No sanding needed
- No priming required
- No prepping necessary
- Paint goes directly onto the surface

Paint Application Technique

- Hold the brush firmly for good control
- Use big, confident brush strokes in every direction
- Don't worry about perfect technique - "go for it!"
- Apply paint thickly for texture or smoothly for a modern look

The Importance of Waxing

- Waxing is essential for protection and finish
- Clear Wax works perfectly with the paint
- Apply generously in all directions
- Wipe off excess with lint-free cloth
- Creates both protection and aesthetic appeal

"So that's it! All very very simple: paint, wax, done!"

About Chalk Paint®

If you're looking to paint furniture for the first time, look no further than this step-by-step tutorial. Chalk Paint® is a fantastic tool for giving your furniture a whole new look in next to no time. You don't need to be a professional painter to achieve stunning results – you just need the paint colour of your choice, a brush and some Chalk Paint® Wax to protect your finish.

Whichever piece of furniture you're painting, you don't have to worry about sanding or priming first. You can get straight into the fun bit! Chalk Paint® has incredible sticking power and will go onto almost any surface, even varnished pine or laminate. You can apply it thickly for a rustic, textured look or smoothly for a slick modern look.

Once you're happy with the paintwork, it's time to seal it in for a lasting finish: choose Chalk Paint® Wax for indoor use or Chalk Paint® Lacquer for high traffic areas or outdoor use.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can I use Chalk Paint® on outdoor garden furniture?

A: While Chalk Paint® with lacquer can handle some outdoor exposure, wooden garden benches that stay outside all year require specialized exterior paints. The best paint for outdoor wood furniture needs weather-resistant formulations with UV blockers and moisture barriers that traditional chalk paints don't provide. For garden benches exposed to year-round weather conditions, consider outdoor paints specifically designed for outdoor wooden furniture durability.

Step-by-Step Guide to Painting Furniture with Chalk Paint®

1. **Remove Hardware** - Remove any hardware, such as handles, from your furniture if possible.
2. **Clean the Surface** - Give your piece a quick clean with a damp cloth (avoid any harsh chemicals).
3. **Prepare the Paint** - Stir your chosen Chalk Paint® colour. You can use a stir stick or anything else you have to hand.
4. **Apply First Coat** - Dip your brush in, and apply the paint straight onto the furniture. As you paint, move the brush in every direction and all over the piece.
5. **Wait for Drying** - Wait for the first coat to be touch dry. Depending on the climate, this could take 1-3 hours.
6. **Apply Second Coat** - Once dry, apply a second coat in the same manner.
7. **Final Drying** - Wait for the paint to be fully dry.
8. **Apply Wax** - Next, apply Chalk Paint® Wax in the same manner as the paint. Use a brush or lint-free cloth to apply in all directions. Work in sections removing any excess with a lint-free cloth as you go. You want to make sure every bit of paintwork has been waxed.
9. **Curing Period** - And that's it! You can use the piece of furniture as soon as the wax is touch dry, but please note it will take up to 2 weeks to reach its full hardness (known as the 'curing period'). During this time, take extra care with the piece.

Getting Started

Now you've followed these simple steps, you're ready to get painting. It's easy to update furniture with Chalk Paint®, whether you've inherited an old piece

of furniture or found one at a flea market. Perhaps you simply want to update something you already own that doesn't suit your style anymore. Whatever you choose to paint for your first project, make sure you support your local Annie Sloan Stockist by sourcing all the tools you need from them. You can also find plenty of ideas for your project in our Inspiration pages.

Related Techniques

How to: Create a Distressed Paint Effect using Chalk Paint® - Learn advanced techniques for creating beautiful distressed finishes with layered colors.

How to: Use Chalk Paint® Wax – The Basics - Master the essential waxing techniques for protecting and finishing your painted furniture.

This guide provides everything you need to know to start your furniture transformation journey with Chalk Paint®, featuring Annie Sloan's expert tips and time-tested techniques.