

PAINT WORKS

Technology finally gives good ol' paint a conscientious overhaul!

FEATURE FAREEDA KANGA PHOTOGRAPHS BBC GOODHOMES, UK

Buyers today are taking the onus of selecting paint that's low VOC and eco-friendly.

the importance of colour in altering the look and style of space cannot be over-emphasised. It's vital to realise that the colour on the walls, unlike a piece of furniture, cannot be moved around and is hard to alter. So think about the hues and tones you would like to see on a daily basis and make your choice!

GETTING STARTED

Selection of paint isn't the sole responsibility of a painter any longer; more and more buyers are taking the onus of picking the

right brand for their homes. Ordinary paints contain lead and a large number of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) that can be very harmful. "Considering this urgent need for safer, healthier paints, you can opt for lead free/ low VOC / 'green paints'. The implications of a freshly-painted apartment have long troubled consumers who had to move out of their homes due to the unbearable odour emitted by these lead-based paints," says Sukhpreet Singh, General Manager, Marketing, Kansai Nerolac Paints Ltd.

BEFORE PAINTING

- Check for areas that require repair before the painting process.
- Remove all hardware from doors, loosen light fixtures, or mask them with tape.
- Plan your budget. Buy all paint in one batch for convenience and economy.
- Dust walls thoroughly with a dry mop. Use a roller or brush to paint large surfaces.
- Choose paints that are 'lead free' and 'low' or 'zero VOC'.
- Before the first coat, the wall surface should be evened out with a quality primer/putty.
- For best results, apply two-three coats of paints, rather than one thick coat.

WHAT'S NEW WATERPROOF PAINTS

Seepage in a structure can damage walls irrespective of the age of the structure. The painting activity undertaken is very important to determine the longevity of any structure. In relation, taking due precautions is always recommended rather than restoration of a structure or surface at

a later stage when the damage has already occurred. One of the most viable and economic solutions in ensuring protection of any structure is to use waterproof paints. Waterproof paints contain water-resistant properties ensuring durability and sustainability of these products.

Advantages

- Waterproof paints ensure superior protection.
- They prevent moisture buildup, thus protecting wall surfaces.
- Water-based paints increase the sustainability of latex paints and stains.
- These products can be recoated in the future if need be.
- As these products are water-resistant, they can be cleaned as and when required.
- These paints are UV resistant and also have anti-fungal and anti-algae properties.

Application

Waterproof paints can be used in interiors, bathrooms, basements, exteriors or any other surface that is likely to come in contact with water. "There are several

advantages in using concrete during construction to prevent seepage. However water or moisture can penetrate through cement walls and create damage or leaks, but waterproof paints can help eliminate this. The application of waterproof paints depends on where it is being applied and how much moisture it can sustain," says Percy Jijina, Director Sales, Decorative - Jotun India Pvt Ltd.

WHAT'S NEW ECO-FRIENDLY PAINTS

Eco-paints ensure a greener environment to live in. They are non-toxic, with zero VOC and are odour-free. In eco-friendly products, the paints, stains, thinners and waxes are made from naturally-derived raw materials including citrus peel extracts, essential oils, tree resins, inert mineral fillers and natural pigments. Choosing eco-friendly paints and associated products, especially for interior jobs, has a surprising effect on the air quality of the room. Some green paint products also help keeping the room cooler during Summer and ensure energy efficiency.

MAINTENANCE TIPS

- Wash walls with a soft sponge and mild detergent twice a year for best results. For distempred walls, minimum pressure should be applied while cleaning.
- If any dampness is observed, check for the source and rectify it immediately to prevent flaking and peeling of paint.
- Remove stains and dust from a painted surface with a clean white cloth or sponge dipped in mild detergent. After cleaning, wash away all traces of detergent and wipe dry.
- Never use water for spot cleaning unless the wall is totally free from extraneous dust. ☞

Protect any structure by using waterproof paints. It's the most viable solution.

