

# 5 Painting Mistakes



## TO AVOID

LIST IN PROGRESS

*Affiliate links included for shopping convenience, at no added cost to you.*

### TOP 5 MISTAKES

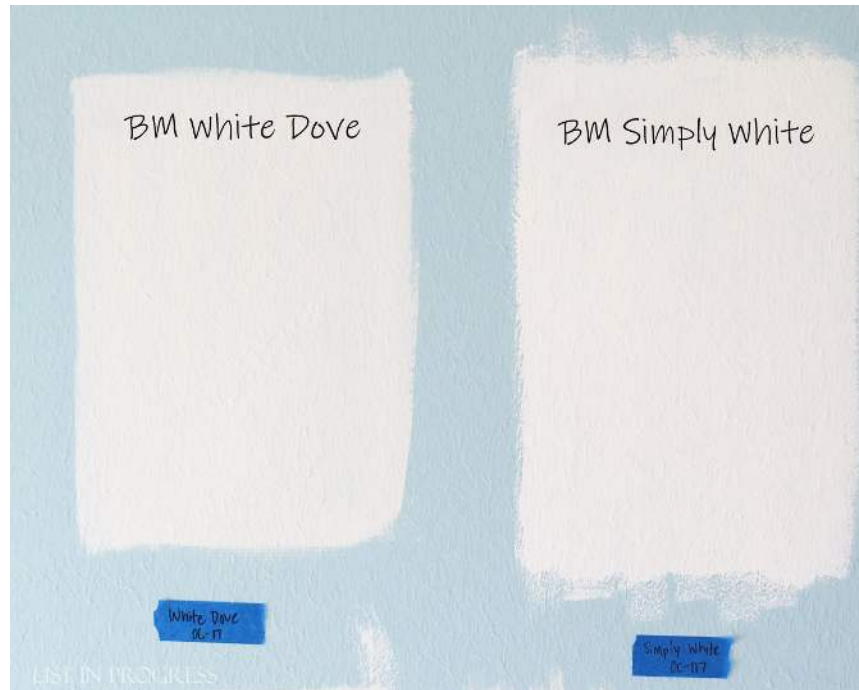
1. Skipping Samples
2. Using the Wrong Tools
3. Not Priming First
4. Choosing the Wrong Sheen
5. Tossing Leftover Paint

Painting is one of the easiest ways to update and refresh your space. That's why you're here, right? You want to get it right the first time. Here are my **top 5 painting mistakes to avoid**.



## MISTAKE #1: SKIPPING SAMPLES

If you're going to invest time, energy, and money into painting, please *don't skip sample swatches*. It is the most important step in getting the color right on the first go! I'm not talking about the sample cards - buy actual paint samples to test.



If you have colors in mind from one paint line but plan to buy the paint from a different source, get the colors *mixed in the paint* you will actually buy. Most stores can match popular colors to their paint formulations, but there might be teeny differences. That's why you should try them out.

Read More: [My Favorite Behr White Paint Colors](#)

I often buy Behr paint but have it mixed in Benjamin Moore colors. Someone has done the research to formulate Simply White or Revere Pewter in Behr paint, but you need to see that exact paint sample in your own space.



If you don't want to paint the sample colors on your walls or trim, just paint the samples on cardboard or poster board and move them around.

Check your samples throughout the day. The light changes in every room, and you might love a certain color in the morning but hate it in the evening. You might be surprised!

## **MISTAKE #2: CHOOSING THE WRONG SHEEN**

Here's why paint sheens matter. The flatter and more matte the sheen, the less durable and harder it is to clean. Just bump up the sheen for high-touch surfaces and bathrooms, and you'll be so happy you did when it's time to wipe them down.

If you live in a home with kids and dogs, please please don't choose flat paint for your walls. It's so hard to clean scuffs and dirt from flat walls. Level up to eggshell, which is just barely above flat and will be easier to clean.

Doors and trim are typically a shinier finish, either satin, semi-gloss, or gloss. Personally, I choose semi-gloss for trim and doors. My go-to trim paint is Behr's Ultra Pure White in semi-gloss because you can just grab a can right off the shelf.



Bathrooms are a good place to go with a satin finish on the walls. Because the space is damp, dust and hair (among other things) will stick to the walls over time and it's much easier to clean a slicker surface.

Cabinets are best in satin or shinier. All the reasons above apply. [Check out this post](#) for the scoop on our DIY kitchen remodel and painted cabinets.

### [Our DIY Kitchen Remodel - Yes, I Painted Those Cabinets!](#)



For more info on painting cabinets, check out these posts:

[The Easiest Way to Paint Cabinets](#)

[How to Degrease and Clean Wood Cabinets](#)

[The Best Paints for Kitchen Cabinets](#)

## MISTAKE #3: USING THE WRONG TOOLS

You know the motto, *use the right tool for the job*? When it comes to painting, using the right tools truly matters.

Choose the highest quality tools your budget allows. They will be more comfortable to hold, last longer, and perform better. Especially paint brushes! Losing bristles as you paint is super annoying. I highly recommend [this brush](#) because the handle is flexible. For me, that means my hand doesn't tire as quickly while I'm painting trim and cutting in along walls.

**Read More:** [Paint Like a Pro - Tools and Tips](#)



[Wooster Shortcut 2" Angle Sash Brush](#)

Buy the right nap length if you're using roller for your painting project. A  $\frac{3}{8}$ " nap is fine for most projects, including primer and paint on walls and ceilings. If you have smooth walls, you might prefer a  $\frac{1}{4}$ " nap roller cover.

Foam rollers are great for doors and cabinets. You'll get a smoother coat of paint than with a microfiber or woven cover.

**This extension roller** is also a favorite item in our tool kit. The handle is comfortable to grip and the extension allows me to roll paint to the ceiling without a step stool (I'm 5'4").



## **MISTAKE #4: NOT PRIMING FIRST**

When in doubt, prime. You'll save yourself a lot of heartache if you take the time to prime that new wall patch, or old ceiling water spot, or freshly-sanded surface. Priming is the key to a great paint job. Primer helps paint adhere to the surface, seals raw wood, covers stains and smells, and just hides a multitude of sins (in paint).

Here's what happened to us when we skipped primer on a wall that had been previously painted with really cheap paint. It bubbled and peeled off!



Be sure to choose a primer that is designed for your project and chosen paint. Don't fall for the primer+paint combos in order to skip a step. Primer is formulated differently than paint, for a specific purpose, and you won't get the same result out of a combo product. It will probably be fine as a paint, but just use a separate primer product first.

These are great primers. My top pick is always Kilz, followed by Zinsser.



There's one exception to the priming rule. If you're painting with a milk paint or chalk paint product that does not require primer, just follow those instructions. I love using **General Finishes Milk Paint** for quick cabinetry painting projects for this very reason. I buy it from Amazon [here](#).

Read More: [The Easiest Way to Paint Cabinets](#)

BEFORE



After



## MISTAKE #5: TOSSING LEFTOVER PAINT

You may think you're finished with your project, but it's a great idea to hang on to that partially-full can of paint. Here's why.

1. When someone accidentally dents the wall and you need to patch and paint, you'll have the matching paint color and sheen ready to go.
2. If you're moving, it's easier to grab that paint for touch-ups rather than repainting the entire room!
3. If you've requested a custom color, the paint formulation will be printed on the top of the can. You might want it down the road for a future project.



4. In the case of premixed colors, like milk paint or chalk paint products, you might not be able to buy the exact color/formula in the future.
5. When product lines change, you might be stuck. We just painted a room with a Benjamin Moore product that has since been discontinued. I'm definitely keeping some for touch-ups!

All are great reasons to hang on to one partial can of paint!



## WANT TO READ MORE?

I've got loads of info on painting, tips, supplies, and past projects to share!

Check out these blog posts:

[Paint Like a Pro - Tools and Tips](#)

[My Favorite Behr White Paint Colors](#)

[The Easiest Way to Paint Cabinets](#)

[How to Degrease and Clean Wood Cabinets](#)

[The Best Paints for Kitchen Cabinets](#)

[Our DIY Kitchen Remodel + How I Painted Those Cabinets!](#)

[12 Tips for Using a HomeRight Paint Sprayer](#)