



RANDALL'S
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INFO PAGE

PAINTING NOTES & TIPS

PAINT & PRIMER – IS THE PRIMER IN THE PAINT?:

There is a lot of talk these days about self priming paints on the market and how they can save you a lot of time and money. They are also being presented as if it is a recent innovation, while at Randall's we have had self-priming products available for 25 years, in fact almost all our 100% acrylic paints are self priming over existing coatings and can even be put directly on drywall.

The advertising behind this feature is misleading as it never specifies what the primer is being applied for and anyone who has painting experience knows that there are many purposes that primers are used for. Here is a list of the main uses of primers and short description of the primer and what it achieves:

- 1. New or repaired drywall:** Although many of the "self-priming" products you see on TV can be used here, they are not the best products to use. Any primer that is also made to be a topcoat, will not penetrate and seal the drywall properly and may result in the uneven absorption of the top coat causing roller marks. Primer is also much less expensive than the top coat so there is not much of a cost savings using the same paint for priming as the topcoat.
- 2. Water and other stains:** There are virtually no topcoats that seal water, smoke or other stains. A quality primer/sealer is usually required and sometimes an alcohol or shellac-based primer/sealer.
- 3. Wood (bare):** A topcoat/primer will not seal wood properly and will allow tannins to bleed. It will also not stick as well as a wood primer that is made to penetrate and adhere to the wood fibre instead of sitting on top which is what finish coats are made to do.
- 4. Glossy/smooth surfaces:** Over existing glossy, oil or other smooth surfaces the substrate should be sanded to rough it up and aid the adhesion first. It is then recommended that a flash or super adhesive primer that is made specifically to adhere to slick surfaces be used before the topcoat.

There are many other uses for specific primers but these are the main ones that we are asked about everyday in our shop. As you can see, any good 100% acrylic paint can be considered self-priming but that does not mean it is the best alternative to prime with for any surface. Consult your local independent paint dealer for specific direction and advice.