

Milk Paint 101

Please read this thoroughly to answer your questions on how to use Milk Paint, how much paint you will require, and how to get your desired finish.

Milk paint is easily applied to porous surfaces such as bare wood, plaster, concrete etc. Now with our newly developed Milk Paint Bond, previously painted walls, furniture and more can now be painted with milk paint!

Milk paint provides a completely breathable coating and is ideal for painting plaster walls, ceilings, straw bale homes, furniture etc. It can be used to paint the interior or exterior without peeling. Being slightly alkaline it also naturally inhibits the growth of mould and mildew.

Milk Paint will produce a solid colour or a stain depending on the amount of water used when mixed. We have 50 colours in the Milk Paint, however colours can be intermixed for custom shades.

Since this paint dries so quickly (usually 1/2 hour) you are able to finish your project in no time at all. You can layer as many different colours of milk paint as you like- this is most popular when doing a distressed or antiqued look. Be sure to use our water based stain before painting if you desire a distressed look.

Milk paint must be sealed with a finishing product such as our Hemp Oil, Beeswax or Varnish for extra protection on furniture. Our colours are formulated to appear as they are on the colour chart once your project has been sealed, left unsealed it will appear chalky.

It is always recommended to do a test to ensure that you like the colour before painting your project.

How much Milk Paint do I need?

Following this grid- you will be able to determine how much you will need. Light colours such as Sturbridge White, Champlain, Limestone, Buttermilk Cream, Ochre and Prairie Sunset require an extra coat (usually 2 to 3 coats) Please see section A. For all other colours see section B.

Section A: For lighter colours the coverage is as follows:

Size	Solid Coverage	Stain
50 gm	10 sq ft	45 sq ft
170gm	30-40 sq ft	120 sq ft
1 lb	100 sq ft	400 sq ft
5 Lbs	500 sq ft	1500 sq ft

Batch Variations:

Slight shade/colour variations may occur between batches as this is a natural product and is hand blended.

Section B: For all other colours the coverage is as follows:

Size	Solid Coverage	Stain
50 gm	20 sq ft	100 sq ft
170gm	80 sq ft	300 sq ft
1 lb	160 sq ft	800 sq ft
5 Lbs	800 sq ft	3000 sq ft

To avoid batch variations, make sure that you buy a large enough quantity to do your colour testing, entire project and have some extra leftovers for future touch ups.

If you have several smaller bags of the same colour for one project, be sure to mix the powder thoroughly together before adding water.



Keep in mind once milk paint is mixed with water it will last for about a day, sometimes longer if kept covered and in the fridge, however this is not recommended as the consistency of the paint may change.

Materials Needed

- Electric blender (hand mixing is not usually sufficient)
- Empty container- usually an old ice cream container is perfect
- Measuring Cup
- Polyester Paintbrush (Sponge brush for Wash Effect)
- 0000 Steel Wool or 220 grit Sandpaper
- Homestead House Wood Sealer – Beeswax, Hemp Oil or Varnish
- Homestead House Wood Stain (if the distressed look is desired)
- Homestead House Milk Paint powder

****Never use a primer when milk painting-a porous surface is required. It is easiest to start with a new project, as anything previously applied will not allow the milk paint to adhere properly. Restoring? Be sure to sand off all top coats and finishes before starting your project unless using our Milk Paint Bond.****

Mixing Instructions

- Mix 1 ½ parts water to 1 part powder for a solid colour. A part can be whatever you wish, a table spoon, a cup etc. For a stain, mix 4 parts water to 1 part powder. Any milk paint colour can be made into a stain simply by adding more water.
- First add water to the blender, followed by the powder to prevent the powder from getting compacted and not mixing thoroughly.
- Egg beaters are not a sufficient means of blending, an electric blender is necessary- don't worry this can be re-used for food.
- Turn the blender on low for 3-5 minutes then let the milk paint settle for 10 minutes to allow all the pigments to completely dissolve, this will ensure a uniform colour.
- After 10 minutes of settling, mix the milk paint for 30 seconds as much of the pigments may have settled on the bottom.
- This is where you now test your colour to see if you have achieved the right opaqueness. Take a spare piece of wood and paint out a small amount. Your milk paint should produce no specs or chunks(specs or chunks means you need to blend for longer).
- Sometimes a second coat is necessary, especially with lighter colours. If the paint is too translucent and stain like, then add more powder and mix again for 3-5 minutes. If too thick, add more water. This testing stage may be tedious for first timers, but it gets easier!
- Be sure to apply a finish coat on the test piece after applying the milk paint as this will greatly deepen the colour, then proceed.
- If using the Milk Paint Bond, you can add it after you have blended the milk paint with water and have found the right consistency.
- Once you are happy with the consistency and colour you are ready to start your project!

Application

- We recommend pouring the paint out of the blender into a wide mouth container such as a recycled ice cream container. Now is a good time to wash or soak the blender with warm soapy water. The blender will clean very easily if this is done at this stage. You can reuse your blender for food after.
- Be sure to remove excess foam after mixing as this foam has very poor coverage.
- Apply paint evenly using a regular bristle brush or foam brush in the direction of the wood grain.
- Try not to leave pools of milk paint as this will dry uneven. Extra strokes will remove air bubbles if they occur. A spotted finish may result if bubbles dry on surface. This can usually be sanded out.
- Stir paint when re-dipping your brush as the natural pigments will settle – this will maintain a consistent colour.
- Drying time is very fast, approximately 20 minutes. You can then apply a second coat if necessary. If not, then follow onto the finishing step.

Finishing

- Once dry your project will have a chalky appearance. This will change to a deeper richer colour once you have “sealed” it in the final step. You should have seen this in your testing stage.
- When dry, use steel wool or very fine sandpaper to lightly rub surface (with the grain). This will remove excess milk paint residue and smooth the raised wood grain. Only a very gentle sanding is required.
- Once gently sanded, a slightly damp rag will remove any excess dust or excess milk paint residue
- Now you can apply your top finish coat to seal your milk paint project. Once you have sealed your project it will not be possible to go back and add or change the milk paint or stain colour– so you must be certain with your piece before you apply the finish coat. This is why we recommend doing a test piece first.
- Hemp Oil Wood Finish is a great sealer that provides a water resistant finish with a soft satin sheen. Followed by our beeswax will provide rich patina and extra long lasting protection. Both of these are food safe and all natural.
- Homestead House Traditional Varnish offers a maintenance-free satin finish that is extremely durable for any surface(flooring/cabinetry)
- If the milk paint surface is left unsealed the chalky colour will remain, and water spots will occur if the project comes into contact with water.
- Walls can be left unsealed if desired.