

How to Spray Paint

There are just a few tricks to learning how to get a flawless finish when spray painting an object. There are a huge variety of textures, sheens colors, or fun effects for decorating, hobbies and crafts. Paints for plastic, exterior use, or that holds up to high heat or provides rust protection is great for touch ups and maintenance. Once you know how, there's no end to what you can update.

1. PREP THE SURFACE

- Start with a clean, dry surface. Spray on a primer coat if the product isn't a paint and primer in one.

2. SHAKE IT UP

- Shake the can really well. Spray a couple test spots on a piece of cardboard or newspaper. The spray may sputter a bit.

3. SPRAY THE SURFACE

- To avoid drips, hold the can 6-8 inches away from the object. Start spraying off of the object, come across it and don't let go of the button until you're off the item again. Turn or move around the object so you're spraying head on with a sweeping motion and overlapping spray patterns. This will help get even coverage and in any nooks and crannies. Coat the entire project versus working in stages.

4. LET IT DRY

- Make sure you let the paint dry in between coats; usually about an hour, but check the instructions on the can.

5. CLEAR THE NOZZLE

- While holding the can upside down, begin spraying until only a clear gas comes out. Then wipe the nozzle clean. Do this after each use.

HELPFUL TIPS:

- Work in an area with good ventilation away from sparks or flames.
- The vapors can ignite. Keep the can away from heat which can cause the can to burst.
- Wear a mask to avoid breathing in vapors.
- Control the overspray. Spray paint will drift onto anything nearby.
- A spray gun trigger helps cut down on hand fatigue.

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NOTE: Always follow manufacturer's recommended safety precautions and instructions for the products you use.