

# Paint Like A Pro

If you're like most Americans, the spring rains and beating summer sun have impacted the paint on your home, barn or shed. Even the strongest exterior paints can fade after time, which means fall is the best time for getting out the brushes, rollers and cans.

The same holds true for your home's interior, which is generally due for a few touch-up projects once per year. Or maybe you're renovating this fall and looking to completely overhaul your space.

Fall's cool temperatures mean you won't become overheated on bigger paint projects. It's also the perfect climate for your paint to dry, unlike summer's humid, sticky air. Head to your local hardware store for the latest and greatest selection in paints and materials. It's time to get to work!

## Colors

What are some of the first colors that pop into your mind when thinking about fall? Red, green, brown and burnt orange are great options to mimic the natural environment around you.

Fall painting projects can incorporate these trendy colors if you're looking to build an aesthetic connection with nature. Of course, if you're simply touching up an area around your home, work with your local hardware store or paint specialty shop to match your color.

Bring in a high-resolution photo of the color you're seeking to help your paint dealer mix the correct hue. It's always a good idea to keep good records of the color, brand and manufacturer of the paints you've used in the past. This ensures you will be able to find the right color when it's time for a touchup.

## Painting Tips

Many people decide to enlist the services of local painting professionals to take care of their projects. You likely can find affordable help by checking out



your local newspaper for ads or relying on your friends and family members for referrals.

If you're looking to go the do-it-yourself route, there are many tips that can help you successfully and safely take on your painting project this fall. Here are a few:

- For the best application and highest quality results, always clean the walls, ceilings and other surfaces you will be painting. This helps get rid of any dirt or debris.
- Avoid using slippery plastic to protect your floors

from drips. Use drop cloths or old sheets instead to prevent falls.

- If you have holes or other imperfections, use spackle to fill them. Don't forget to sand them smooth when dry.
- Have a bigger project? Consider using a five-gallon bucket with a roller screen inside. This can help save you the time and mess of refilling paint trays over and over again.

# Fall Inspired Decor

Fall is a great time to redo or update decorations because the season's elements lend themselves to becoming perfect additions to your overall interior design scheme. Consider fall's gorgeous colors and many textures when choosing how to incorporate the season into your decorations.



Your local interior design specialist keeps track of what's hot in fall design. Integrating some of these trends can help you create stunning decorations for your fall harvest party or holiday get-togethers.

## Designing Your Door

The front door is the gateway into a home. Because of this, any fall wreaths bought or made should reflect your personal style.

Some people may prefer something simple. A wreath made with fall

greenery or branches will do just that. Others want a more elaborate design. For these more complex projects, consider the wide variety of materials available. Your local craft or hobby store has the ribbon, bells and spray paint needed for the most creative of efforts.

## Take it to the Table

Table decor is easy to change for the seasons, but it can really transform a dining room area. It doesn't have to cost a lot and can be pulled off with a little creativity and

attention to detail.

Consider recycling things from around the house. Use different-sized glass jars and fill them with colorful leaves or seasonal flowers. Gourds make for the perfect fall decoration on your table-top. Or you can mix and match fall candles with flowers picked from your garden.

## Natural Elements

The outdoors contain a vast assortment of potential decorating material in the fall for free. Take a hike or walk to explore and pick out your pieces.

Look for pine cones, beautiful fall leaves and branches. Pick some in-season fall flowers and put them in a vase for instant beauty. Your local farmers and farmers markets will have an abundant supply of decorative pumpkins that you can easily incorporate into any design that needs a burst of vibrant orange color.

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