

Professional Decorators Guide

Brush application of water based paints

Waterborne and solvent borne materials require different brushing techniques, due to the faster drying and reduced flow of waterborne coatings.

Water based paints advantages; very low solvent levels, rapid drying and good durability, are significant and the application differences, compared to traditional solvent paints, are easily overcome by following some simple guidance.

- The quality of the brush is very important as short haired or worn brushes will leave lines in the dry coating film.
- All surfaces to be coated must be abraded with a fine grade (180 or 220 grit) glass paper or flexible sanding pad, then washed down to ensure they are free from dust and grease.
- Prior to application, thoroughly wet the brush with water, ensuring that the base of the bristles (the heel of the brush) is fully wetted.
- Any synthetic brush will be suited for application as long as the brush is good quality from a reputable merchant.
- Teknos topcoats can be applied directly from the tin, though additional thinning with between 5 and 10% of water will improve the flow and levelling properties of the product, particularly in warm weather.
- An even coating film is important for durability and also for appearance, particularly in the case of translucent wood stain. With practice, an even coat can be applied quickly, following a three stage application technique:
 1. Load the coating generously and disperse quickly over the surface.
 2. Even out the coating with light diagonal cross strokes. Do not overbrush; the coating will flow and level naturally.
 3. Finish with light brush strokes in the direction of the grain.
- When painting joinery, apply and finish each section systematically. This means painting a window or door one component at a time. E.g. Top Rail followed by a Stile followed by the Bottom Rail etc.
- When applying darker opaque colours over previously applied lighter shades a base coat of the final colour or one coat of suitable Teknos grey primer will help achieve an even finish colour.
- Do not apply in extremes of temperature. The most suitable temperature range is between 50C and 150C. Humid conditions will prolong the "wet edge" time of the coating while warm windy conditions will reduce it. If possible avoid application in direct sunlight.
- Wash out brush with a mild detergent solution (e.g. washing up liquid) and rinse with clean water.

