



HUE GOES THERE: Clockwise from left, the new range from Paint and Paper Library; Little Greene's new Pink Collection; prepare woodwork properly and try oil eggshell; a one coat refresh of the existing colour can revive your rooms.



BRUSH UP YOUR COLOURS

Want to brighten up your home? **Richard Bond** shows how to get the perfect finish

If you are looking to brighten up your home this autumn without a major refurbishment budget, then a fresh coat of paint can be the perfect solution; provided you are prepared to do it properly. It doesn't have to be about a change of colour, as just giving your room a one coat refresh helps revive your original colour and eliminates any usage marks or blemishes. However, patching rarely works as paint shades alter over time, so embrace the change and paint the entire wall.

Take time to prepare your surfaces well, a few extra hours spent initially give a better and longer lasting

finish. If you are going to reposition artwork remove all picture hooks and repair the holes with filler. Let the filler dry and sand to a smooth finish so that your repair will be invisible once painted.

Treat small crack with filler, but large cracks should generally be considered a job for a professional – it may seem an additional expense, but it is likely to reap rewards in the long run. Woodwork preparation is vital to avoid chipping that will make your renovation look old before its time. Well-worn surfaces should be stripped with a chemical paint remover (such as Nitromors) or a

hot-air paint stripper to give you a clean base. Even surfaces in good condition should have existing top coats gently sanded to a matt finish as this allows new paint to bond properly.

Apply the first coat of emulsion to your walls and, once this has dried, undercoat any woodwork. Be patient.

After this has dried, apply a second coat of emulsion and then a topcoat of your chosen woodwork finish; this ensures better definition and finish between the paints.

Your choice of paint finish is vital – things have come a long way since simple gloss or emulsion. In areas like hallways, which are prone to hard wear, use washable emulsion such as Dulux Endurance+ Matt or Zoffany Elite Emulsion. These

PINK PARADISE

This month Little Greene launched their new limited edition 'Pink' colour card including seven new paint colours, providing a delicious choice from soft delicate tones to bolder, seductive hues. The special palette is complimented with a limited edition pink colour way of their "Paradise" Wallpaper. The collection celebrates their long-standing support of October Breast Cancer Awareness month, during which 15p from every can of paint sold is donated to Breast Cancer Haven.

finishes are washable and generally stain resistant.

We use oil eggshell for woodwork. The finish is softer than gloss and seems easier to apply than acrylic eggshell, which can dry very quickly and be more prone to streaking.

As with many things, cheap paint may sound a bargain, but often contains less pigment so can require more coats and be more difficult to work with. Trade up to a good quality paint such as Paint & Paper Library (www.paintandpaperlibrary.com) and not only are the colours likely to be more intense, but it should take less time to do the job.

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