

## **6 Quick Tips for Maintaining Your Painted Walls**

Whether removing a nasty mess or simply freshening the area up, painted walls come with their own rules and challenges. Check out these pro tips for restoring your room to its prime.

### **1. Dusting - the unsung hero**

No walls are perfectly smooth, and the tiny ridges and protrusions in paint jobs are excellent at gathering dust. You'll be surprised how much periodic dusting of the walls (and ceiling!) can restore the shine to a painted wall.

### **2. Regularly wash bath and kitchen walls**

Spots like these develop residue from being frequently bathed in steam from showers and food preparation. You'll want to clean these walls gently with a mild soap and water solution, to avoid any abrasive or chemical damage. Don't forget to dry the area afterwards!

### **3. Know your paint**

Not all types of paint are created equal. When it comes to cleaning a spill or stain, gloss and semi-gloss finishes tend to be more durable and can sustain scrubbing with soap and water, while flat and matte finishes are more delicate. Rub gently with these, and consider simply painting over the affected area if they prove resistant to your efforts.

### **4. Test your cleaning method**

If you aren't sure whether your paint can withstand your cleaning attempts, test it out on a tiny spot in a corner, or perhaps behind furniture. If any damage does occur, such as fading or chalking of the paint, it will be inconspicuous and save you a much bigger headache.

### **5. Touch up the paint job**

If you can't easily clean or repair damage to the paint, it may be time to repaint the section. Sand away the problem area to provide a clean slate, and feather in the replacement paint. Hopefully you've saved some paint from the original job (but if not, read on!). Any holes should be filled and primed before repainting.

### **6. Computer-match your paint's color**

What if you need to perform a touch-up, but you've run out of the original color? Rather than repainting the entire room or dealing with a slight color mismatch, simply take a chip of the paint to any store with computerized paint-matching equipment. They will be able to reverse-engineer the mix and provide you with a perfect color match, typically at no additional charge for use of the equipment.