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Using different paint around the house



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WHEN painting, each room of the home must be looked at through a different lens. It's important to consider the type of paint you're going to use for a particular room, the level of gloss you want and the type of finish.

Types of paint: It's important to look into the varying types, depending on where you are painting. Some paints contain high levels of toxic VOCs (volatile

organic compound) which can pollute the home even years after the walls have been painted. Others, such as water-based paints, contain lower-levels of VOCs and are better for interior use. And some contain no VOCs, so are ideal for children's rooms and furniture.

As a general rule of thumb, water-based paints are best used for the interior of the home. They lack any petrochemical solvents, making them less of a health risk, even if they do have small traces of VOCs. If you choose a paint with no VOCs you run the risk of limiting your choice of colours and gloss levels.

Levels of gloss: This will depend on what room you are painting.

Matte paint has no gloss to it, but does a great job at deflecting light and is a good choice for rougher-feeling walls. It is also ideal for rooms that won't be subject to dirt and grime, as it's a hard surface to keep clean.

Satin is a smooth-finish paint commonly used in living rooms and hallways with a higher level of gloss. Sitting in between matte and satin is an eggshell finish, which is a good option for dining rooms and if you want only a slight gloss. Semi-gloss is ideal for bathrooms and kitchens, as it's easy to clean and is more moisture and grease resistant. High-gloss is often used for trims and edges of the home and strictly should not be used on

huge surface areas, as it highlights imperfections easily.

Special paint finishes: Instead of painting your walls with a roller or brush, you may want to try some special paint finishes.

Sponge painting gives walls a two-tone effect. After you've painted the first coat with a roller, simply use a sponge for the second coat. Ragging is similar to the sponging effect. Paint the first coat with a roller and use a rag for the second coat.

And a crackle finish is ideal for smaller spaces or feature walls, creating a charming, rustic look.

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