

# TWOCOATS™



## 7 Mistakes That Ruin Every DIY Paint Job

*And What Professional Painters Do Instead*



# Most Paint Jobs Fail Before the Paint Touches the Wall

## Sound familiar?

You picked the color. You bought the paint, the roller, the tape. You cleared the room, set aside the weekend — and you were **ready**.

But when the paint dried? Streaks. Patches. Peeling edges. Nothing like the finish you imagined.

## Here's the truth pros know

A great paint job is **80% preparation, 20% paint**. The color matters less than what happens before you ever open the can.

This guide walks you through the 7 most common mistakes — and exactly what to do instead. No jargon. No guesswork. Just the right steps, in the right order.

# Here's What We're Covering

01

## Skipping Surface Prep

The foundation of everything

02

## Painting Over Dirt & Grease

The invisible paint killer

03

## Ignoring Wall Damage

Cracks and holes show through

04

## Using Cheap Tools

Bad tools = bad finish

05

## Skipping Primer

The step most DIYers skip

06

## Rolling Incorrectly

Technique makes all the difference

07

## Rushing the Dry Time

Patience is a pro's best tool

# Mistakes #1-3: It All Starts With the Surface

## MISTAKE #1

### Skipping Surface Prep

**What goes wrong:** Paint won't bond to rough, uneven surfaces. You get peeling, bubbling, and a finish that looks rushed.

**Pro move:** Always sand walls lightly before painting. Wipe down with a damp cloth. Let dry fully. A smooth surface is the #1 secret to a smooth finish.

- Sand lightly with 120–150 grit paper
- Fill any small imperfections before sanding
- Wipe down with a tack cloth after sanding

## MISTAKE #2

### Painting Over Dirt & Grease

**What goes wrong:** Paint slides right off greasy surfaces. In kitchens and bathrooms, this is the #1 cause of peeling paint.

**Pro move:** Clean every surface with TSP cleaner or a degreaser before painting. Don't skip this – especially near cooking areas.

- Use TSP cleaner or sugar soap
- Pay extra attention to kitchens and trim
- Let the wall dry 24hrs before priming

## MISTAKE #3

### Not Fixing Wall Damage First

**What goes wrong:** Cracks, holes, and dents don't disappear under paint – they get *highlighted*. Paint makes every flaw more visible.

**Pro move:** Patch every crack with spackling compound. Sand flush when dry. Prime the patch before painting the full wall.

- Use lightweight spackle for small holes
- Allow full cure time before sanding
- Spot-prime every patched area

# Mistakes #4-5: Tools & Primer Matter More Than You Think

## MISTAKE #4

### Using Cheap or Wrong Tools

A \$4 roller leaves lint on your walls. A \$3 brush leaves streaks. You'll spend more fixing it than you saved buying cheap.

#### What pros use:

- A quality 14 mm nap roller for smooth walls
- An angled sash brush (50 - 63mm) for cutting in
- A microfiber roller sleeve for latex paints
- Painter's tape rated for clean removal

📌 Invest once in good tools. They last for years and make every job easier.



## MISTAKE #5

### Skipping Primer

Primer isn't optional — it's the layer that makes your topcoat **actually stick**. Without it, you'll need 3-4 coats of paint instead of 2.

#### What pros do:

- Always prime new drywall and patched areas
- Use tinted primer when switching to a dark color
- Apply one even coat, let dry fully before painting
- Use a stain-blocking primer on water stains or smoke

✅ Primer = better adhesion, truer color, and fewer coats needed.

# Mistakes #6-7: Technique & Patience

## MISTAKE #6

### Rolling Paint Incorrectly

**What people do:** Roll randomly in all directions, apply too much paint at once, and skip "cutting in" the edges first.

**What goes wrong:** You get roller marks, uneven texture, and missed spots near trim and corners.

#### The pro technique:

- Cut in edges first with a brush (50 - 100 mm)
- Load roller evenly — no dripping
- Roll in a "W" or "M" pattern, then fill in
- Always roll in the same direction on the final pass
- Maintain a wet edge — don't let paint dry mid-wall

## MISTAKE #7

### Rushing the Dry Time

**What people do:** Apply a second coat too soon, move furniture back in, or tape before the paint has cured.

**What goes wrong:** The paint peels, smears, or leaves marks. You end up redoing the whole wall.

#### The pro approach:

- Wait at least 2 hours between coats (check the can)
- Don't rush — temperature and humidity affect dry time
- Wait 24hrs before removing tape cleanly
- Wait 30 days before washing painted surfaces
- Good ventilation speeds up drying safely

# The Simple Painting Workflow Pros Follow



Follow this sequence every time — no shortcuts. Each step protects the one after it. Skipping any step is where most DIY paint jobs go wrong.

Before



Visible streaks, patches, roller marks — and paint that's already peeling at the edges.

After



Smooth, even finish with clean edges — the result of proper prep and the right technique.

# Before You Start — Quick Checklist

## Prep

- Clear the room and cover floors with drop cloths
- Remove outlet covers and switch plates
- Clean walls with TSP or sugar soap
- Let walls dry completely (24 hours)

## Repair

- Fill all holes and cracks with spackle
- Sand patches flush when fully dry
- Sand full wall lightly with 120-grit paper
- Wipe down with a tack cloth

## Prime & Paint

- Apply primer to new drywall and all patches
- Let primer dry fully before painting
- Apply painter's tape along trim and edges
- Cut in edges with an angled brush first
- Roll paint in a W-pattern for even coverage
- Wait the full dry time between coats

## Finish

- Remove tape at 45° angle after 24 hours
- Touch up edges and corners as needed
- Clean and store tools properly for next time

# Basic Tools You Actually Need

You don't need a truckload of gear. Just the right tools — quality ones — and you're set for any interior paint job.



## Roller & Frame

14 mm nap/ 270mm microfiber sleeve for smooth walls. Quality 270mm frame for even pressure.



## Roller Tray

Deep-well tray with liner for easy cleanup and consistent roller loading.



## Sandpaper

80-120 grit for wall prep. 180 grit for final smoothing between coats.



## Angled Brush

50 - 63 mm sash or flat brush for cutting in edges, trim, and corners cleanly.



## Painter's Tape

Use a 14-day clean-release tape. Regular masking tape tears surfaces.



## Putty Knife

For applying spackle cleanly and scraping away loose paint or old caulk.

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## Want to Do It Like a Pro?

Now you know what separates a great paint job from a frustrating one. The good news? It's not talent – it's just the right system.

### Smart Checklist

Never miss a step. Room-by-room prep guides built right in.

### Job Planner

Plan your timeline so every coat dries properly before the next.

### Paint Calculator

Know exactly how much paint to buy – no waste, no running out mid-wall.

### Video Lessons

See every technique in action, from cutting in to the perfect final coat.

**Access the full TWOCOATS™ system and get it right the first time.**

A simple, step-by-step system built for homeowners who want professional results – no experience required.

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