



Your Next Paint Project: What You'll Need

How to determine how much paint you'll need:

- Most interior paints will list on the can the square footage they cover. Usually it's in the range of 300 to 450 square feet, depending on the type of paint.
 - To determine how much paint you'll need, determine the square footage of the room. For example, a room 10' by 12' with an 8' high ceiling will need 352 square feet of paint to amply cover the walls $[(8 \times 10) \times 2 + (8 \times 12) \times 2 = 352]$.
 - Painting the ceiling will require an additional 120 square feet of paint $(10 \times 12 = 120)$.

Must-have painting tools:

- Just as important as the paint are the painting tools. Here's what is recommended for a one-room paint job:
 - A 3" or 4" brush for larger trim areas, such as corners; and a 2" brush for tight trim areas, such as next to window trim. Good quality nylon or polyester bristle brushes are recommended.
 - A good quality roller with a synthetic nap. If you're using flat wall paint over a smooth wall, a 3/8" roller is recommended. Glossier paints require a 1/4" nap. A stucco wall may require a 1/2" roller.
 - You can also purchase a bucket insert, which goes on top of the paint can and prevents the paint from collecting in the chime (the lid groove) on the can when you wipe the brush. The inserts sell for about \$2.
 - If you're a messy painter, buy plastic paint shields and/or masking tape to protect trim and glass.
 - Drop cloths are also a good investment to protect carpets and furniture.