

Achieving the best results with Bastion Paint Metallic Paints

This document contains painting tips and techniques that are specifically applicable to our water based metallic paints. It does not contain information on preparation and priming of surfaces that must be done prior to the application of the metallic paint. Always prepare and prime as you would for any other water based Acrylic/PVA paint. If in doubt contact us or your local hardware store.

There are many challenges involved in formulating high sheen/semi-gloss water based paints. One of the main challenges is that water-based paints need to have quite high viscosity (must be quite thick). This causes brush and roller marks to show up in glossy finishes and makes some spray applications difficult. The need for high viscosity increases when large particle metallic pigments are contained in the paint as the thicker paint prevents the metallic particles from settling.

Through the use of some innovative and modern chemistry we have manufactured high viscosity/thick paints that still spread well and can even be used in air pressure spray guns.

Using a brush or roller

You can paint with our Metallic Paints in the same way as with any normal water based wall paint. If you want a very smooth finish (for example if painting melamine kitchen cupboard doors) you can dilute the paint with 10% water (100ml water into 1 litre paint) in order to reduce brush and roller marks.

As the paint has a high sheen (semi-gloss) there is one key rule to remember:

- Keep a wet edge. Rather than explain this you can Google “Keeping a wet edge” and many experienced painters will be lined up to show you videos of what this means and how to achieve it. Basically if you go over paint that has partly dried with a brush or roller then that area looks different in the end result. To assist here are some things to remember:
 - Do not paint in direct sunlight or surfaces that are hot.
 - Do not paint directly onto porous surfaces. Apply a primer or undercoat first.
 - You can dampen the area to be painted with a sponge or even a hose (outside walls) just before you start painting.

If painting surfaces with significant texture or profile then just use the paint as is with a good quality, soft brush.

If painting a normal house wall then use a normal good quality brush and roller and remember about keeping a wet edge.

If you require a smooth finish with a sprayed-on appearance then move the roller in one direction only. 10% dilution with water and the use of a small foam roller will give an excellent result.

Using an Airless Spray Gun

Airless spray systems are perfect for water based acrylic/PVA paints. The paint is pumped to the nozzle and the equipment can handle high viscosity (thick) paints. This equipment is relatively expensive and usually only owned by serious painters. A low level of dilution of our paints with 5-10% water may assist but should not be necessary. You will get excellent results.

HPLV Spray Guns

These spray guns connect to a compressor and operate at high pressure (5 bar for example). The air volume used is low hence the term HPLV. Dilute our metallic paint with 15% water (150ml water into 1 litre paint) and you will get a good result. Although even after dilution our paint may still feel thicker than you normally spray the paint is designed to work as the viscosity breaks down dramatically in the nozzle. It is advisable to use a nozzle with diameter of around 1.8mm. Smaller nozzles used for automotive type finishes (0.6 - 1.2mm) may not work.

HVLP Spray Guns

These spray guns may connect to a compressor but often have their own air pressure generating system. They operate at low air pressure (0.1 - 0.2 bar for example) and use a high volume of air. 15% dilution with water (150ml water into 1 litre paint) can work but our tests showed that this equipment is not ideal for our metallic paints. The problem is related to insufficient pressure to feed the gun rather than the behaviour of the paint in the nozzle. We got good results with a 2.5mm nozzle. Despite having to move back and forward over missed spray areas (where flow stopped) the finish was still surprising flawless.

Some general points about the suitability of our Metallic Paints for spraying

Our metallic paints have been optimised for spraying with air spray systems in numerous ways. Excellent filtration of our paint during manufacture ensures spray gun nozzles don't block. You will also not get air bubble problems in the sprayed paint film as fast acting air removal chemicals have been optimised in the paint formulation. The thixotropic rheology of the paint ensures it atomises well when leaving the nozzle even though it arrives at the nozzle a little thick.

Let us know about your painting and spraying experience, we will appreciate hearing for you:

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