

Painting Tips for 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 our Special Effect Paints. Always prepare and prime as you would for any other water based Acrylic/PVA paint. If in doubt read our document called "Preparation and Priming", contact us or ask at your local hardware store.

1. Should our water-based Special Effect Paints be applied with a spray gun or with a brush and roller?

The basic answer is that both techniques will work but please read on:

Spraying of paint (by somebody with experience) gives a better smoother finish that is free from brush and roller marks. For our Metallic Paints, spraying can be very useful where a totally smooth metal-like finish is required.

If you have no paint spraying experience and are using our paints for a once-off application then it is probably best to stick to using a brush and roller. Of course you may want to start gaining experience in spraying water-based acrylics so if you rush out to buy spray paint equipment make sure you get equipment that is suitable for the spraying of water-based acrylic paints (often also called emulsion paints by spray gun manufacturers). Standard spray equipment used for oil based paints and glossy automotive finish paints may not work without a larger nozzle.

There are many challenges involved in formulating high sheen/glossy water based paints. We have excellent products but painting technique is also important to get the best possible result.

2. 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 painting a flat smooth surfaces such as a kitchen cupboard door you need to take steps to reduce the tendency for brush and roller marks. You can dilute the paint with 10% water (100ml water into 1 litre paint) or for excellent performance and durability you can add our Flow Control product to the metallic paint. You will find our Flow Control on the web page Marbling and Pouring Acrylics.

There are two key rules to remember when using a brush or roller:

Rule 1: 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 paint over paint that has already partly dried then that area will look different in the end result. To assist, here are some things to remember:

- Do not paint in direct sunlight or onto 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.
- Start painting at one corner and progress in one direction without stopping until the other corner is reached. Don't stop until the next corner is reached because if you stop the paint will partly dry and when you overlap the partly dry edge of the paint it will look different.

- When painting walls with a roller, the edges will need cutting-in with a brush. The painter with the roller should not stop to do the cutting-in so a second painter should do this. The painter with the roller should not stop while the second painter moves the ladder and cuts-in as required with a brush. Roller strokes should cover as much of the cut-in area as possible so that the brush marks do not show.

Rule 2: Only move the brush or roller up and down (or left and right)

Only move your brush or roller up and down (or left and right). This gives a more uniform final appearance than haphazard roller and brush strokes. This is important due to the glossy nature of the paint. Once a vertical area of one roller width is completed by moving the roller up and down then start the next roller width vertical section with some overlap the previous section.

3. 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% water may assist but should not be necessary (50ml water into 1 litre paint). You will get excellent results.

4. HPLV Spray Guns (High Pressure Low Volume)

These spray guns connect to a compressor and operate at high pressure (5 bar for example). The air volume used is low. Dilution of our metallic paint with 15% water will probably be required (150ml water into 1 litre paint) to get a good result. Even after dilution the paint may still feel thicker than you normally spray with but the paint is designed to work as the viscosity breaks down dramatically in the nozzle allowing good atomisation of the paint. 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.

5. HVLP Spray Guns (High Volume Low Pressure)

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.

6. 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 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 (forms very fine droplets) when leaving the nozzle even though it arrives at the nozzle a little thick.

Let us know about your painting and spraying experience. Email: sales@bastionpaint.co.za