



Introduction to Rules to live by for Successful Decorative Finishes

Here are a few rules I have established for my paint process. These rules have helped me tremendously over the years. Remember: Some rules are meant to be broken!

IF you have the knowledge you can make wise decisions! Just play!

Rules to live by with all finishes:

1. Decide if you are going to work with water, oil or alcohol based and marry the finishes accordingly.
2. Oil based paint over latex/waterbased paint always. Water based/latex paint over oil based paint NEVER. Remember: Oil rejects water and thus, your paint will chip and crack over time.
3. When using glues or adhesives (or any kind of glue) keep in mind it will seal out ANYTHING – meaning a stain won't penetrate where you have sealed with glue.
4. See a finish through – very often they look horrible until you are 98% there – which is usually the final finish coat. Know you can always do it again – now that you have gone through the learning curve.
5. ALWAYS try a sample of the WHOLE process before applying it to your wall or selected piece of furniture.
6. Always apply a finish in the non-dominant area of the application so, when you get to the focal point you have worked out all your kinks and have gained confidence.
7. Be consistently inconsistent – meaning – move the brush/roller/sponge around and don't get stuck applying it the same way or pattern every square foot of the wall. The goal is to lose track of the brush or sponge and roller so, the application looks random and prevents "lap marks" – where paint double up and you can see exactly where the painter traveled as they applied the finish.
8. Sealers come in oil and latex/water-based. Keep in mind, oil based products will yellow over time and will change the color of your finish – which isn't a bad thing if you want a warm tone.
9. Safety is an important part of painting! When necessary, wear the appropriate respiratory mask and eye protection. I have found kneepads to be invaluable when doing floor applications.
10. When working on scaffolding or ladders be sure to have a work buddy – this will keep you safe and make things much easier.



Carmen's Paint and Decorative Texture Resources

Metal Paints, Patinas, Glazes, Stencils: Rust, Verdi Gris

Modern Masters – www.modermastersinc.com

Dunn Edwards Paint Store

Other brands available at - Lowe's, Home Depot, Michaels, Walmart

Leather Dyes & Tintes: Permanent spirit-based dye for leather & wood projects.

Tandy Leather – www.tandyleatherfactory.com

Gilding Products: Gold Leaf, Silver leaf, Copper Leaf,

Gold leaf Company www.goldleafcompany.com

Sepp Leaf www.seppleaf.com

Gilded Planet www.gildedplanet.com

Michael's Art www.michaels.com

Craft Supplies www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Crackle: Porcelain and Regular Crackle Glaze

Michael's Art Supply Store – www.michaels.com

Also - Lowe's, Home Depot

Wax & other Wood Turning Finishes

Rockler Woodworking and Hardware Store

Craft Supplies – www.woodturnerscatalog.com

Catalina Paints (Lime Wax – specifically)

Enjoy and good luck!!!!

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