

• TRUSTED QUALITY SINCE 1921 •

RUST-OLEUM®

Chalked Paint FAQs

What substrates does Chalked paint apply to?

Chalked paint can be applied to most surfaces such as bare and finished wood, glass, ceramic, metal, and laminate.

Is additional prep needed for specific substrates?

Yes, additional prep may be needed for treated wood (woods with a lacquer or high gloss finish) and other surfaces. Additional coats may be required on certain surfaces like glass and metal.

Do I need to prime before I start my Chalked paint project?

Priming is not required for most surfaces. Priming will always help for adhesion and covering surface defects. We recommend priming for woods high in tannins (cedar, redwood, mahogany and fir) and knotty woods. Priming these surfaces will prevent tannin bleed and cover rough surface defects. Simply prime the entire surface with a shellac base primer such as Zinsser® Cover-Stain®, Zinsser® B-I-N® Primer or Clear B-I-N® sealer according to the directions, and proceed with your project.

Do I need to sand before starting my Chalked paint project?

Sanding is not required for most surfaces. We recommend sanding high gloss surfaces with medium grit sand paper. Slightly sanding any surface will promote adhesion and coverage.

Is Chalked paint environmentally friendly?

Yes, Chalked Ultra Matte paint is safe to use and is low odor. Chalked paint is water based and can be cleaned up with soap and water.

When painting furniture, do I need to remove doors and hardware?

Like any project, removing cabinet doors and all cabinet hardware is recommended for faster application. It will be easier to get a smooth finish on doors when coating them while removed and lying flat.

Does Chalked paint apply in one coat for all surfaces?

Chalked paint applies with one coat on most surfaces. Some colors may take an extra coat to get full coverage (especially light colors). When applying a light color over a dark surface, 1 – 2 additional coats may be required. You can apply up to 5 coats to any surface to get the desired look.

Is a special brush required to apply Chalked paint?

There is no special brush that is required for applying Chalked paint. We recommend a high quality synthetic brush for best results. A high quality foam brush can be used if desired. If applying with a roller, use a high quality small foam roller.

What is the best way to distress Chalked paint?

The easiest way to distress Chalked paint is with a fine (220-240 grit) to medium (150-180 grit) sand paper or sponge. For best results, hold the sand paper with the tips of your fingers and sand the corners and edges of the piece to get the desired look. The more you sand, the more the original finish will show through. For rounded surfaces, wrap the sand paper around the surface and sand to achieve the desired look.

If I want a more antiqued look, is there a product I can use?

To get a more intense aged look, you can apply Cabinet Transformations® Dark Brown glaze to the painted surface. Apply according to the directions on the can.

Is it required to apply the Chalked Ultra Matte top coat?

For added durability and protection, we recommend applying the Ultra Matte Top Coat. It will make it easier to clean and prevent water marks. To apply, apply 1 – 2 thin coats and allow to dry. It is best to work in small areas as this product will dry fast. Chalked Matte top coat does not need to be reapplied. Do not apply too thick and do not over brush.

Painting Faqs

Aren't all paints basically the same?

No they are not. Different types of paints perform different functions. Some have better moisture resistance, some have better color and gloss retention, etc.

Which product has the best resistance to gasoline?

Rust-Oleum EPOXYShield Garage Floor Paint provides gasoline resistance.

Should certain brushes be used with certain paints?

Generally, there are two types of paint brushes: those made of natural-hair bristles and those made with synthetic materials (usually nylon or polyester). Natural bristle brushes are preferred for use with solvent-based (oil- or alkyd-based) paints, especially for enamel or finish work. Natural bristles are hollow and can absorb the water contained in a latex paint, causing them to swell and become soft and limp (like your own hair when it's wet).

Most synthetic brushes work well with both latex and solvent-based paints, but always check the manufacturer's recommendations on the brush. Some of the solvents used in solvent-based paints can break down the composition of a synthetic bristle. Once again, check the label.

Can I recycle spray cans?

Yes, all Rust-Oleum spray cans can be recycled once they are empty.

How should I care for my brush so that it maintains its performance level use after use?

Clean it immediately after use with paint thinner or kerosene for bristle brushes, soap and water for nylon/polyester brushes. Use a brush comb to clean and straighten the bristles. Don't soak your brush for extended periods of time or it may lose its shape. If possible, store your brush by hanging it and don't store a brush on its tips.

Is an expensive brush really that much better than a cheap one?

High-quality or more expensive brushes have distinct advantages over the cheaper ones. First of all, a high-quality brush will finish the job more quickly. This is because a top-quality brush has the ability to "hold" more paint in reservoir, which means you will spend less time "painting the can" than applying the paint to the surface.

Also, a top-quality brush will have a tapered end, which means there are shorter bristles on the outside and longer bristles in the center. Tapered bristles give the painter more control over where and how much paint goes onto the surface.

A top-quality brush will also not shed bristles like a cheaper brush, because of how firmly the bristles are seated in the ferrule (the metal band that attaches the bristles to the handle).

The quality of a brush is also determined by the material used as plugs (space plugs inside the ferrule that bond the bristles in the ferrule, add taper to the bristles, and finally create "wells" in the center of the bristles to hold paint) in the ferrule.

What type of brush should I use if both oil- and water-based paints are being applied?

Nylon and polyester blend paint brushes work well in both oil- and water-based paints.

How do I fix a clogged spray valve?

If valve clogs, twist and pull off spray tip and rinse it in a solvent such as mineral spirits. Do not stick a pin or other objects into the stem.

Wood Care Faqs

Do I have to apply a clear coat after staining?

While staining creates a rich, deep color that highlights natural wood grain, it does not provide long-term protection. Without a protective top coat, wood can be damaged easily due to contact with water, food, or sharp objects. A polyurethane top coat protects the wood from scratches, stains and water damage. A Spar Varnish should be used on outdoor wood to protect it from weather damage and UV rays.

Do I need a Pre-Stain or Wood Conditioner?

Pre-Stain or Wood Conditioner is often used on soft wood like pine. The inconsistent porous nature of soft woods can result in a stain finish that is blotchy or uneven. Wood conditioner or pre-stain acts as a base coat before staining by filling in the wood pores for more even color coverage.

How do I apply polyurethane?

Polyurethane should be applied using a high quality brush. The polyurethane should be applied in light, even coats, always brushing with the grain. Create a thin overlap from coat to coat but do not over brush. Three coats are recommended for adequate durability. Follow dry times noted on the product packaging.

How do I apply stain?

STEP 1: Before applying, test the color in an inconspicuous area to ensure it's the color you want. Make sure the wood is the same type as the rest of your piece.

STEP 2: Stir the contents thoroughly before use. Some stain color may settle at the bottom of the can so it is important to stir thoroughly, just like you would for paint.

Next apply the stain using a high quality synthetic bristle brush, foam brush or clean, lint-free cloth. We prefer a lint-free cloth as it allows greater control during the application process. Apply the stain liberally in the direction of the grain until the wood is saturated on top. Allow the stain to set on the wood according to manufacturer's directions. We recommend 5 minutes for Varathane Wood Stain. For less color wipe immediately; for more color allow the full 5 minutes for absorption. Do not let the stain set longer than 5 minutes as it will begin to dry.

STEP 3: Wipe off the excess stain in the direction of the wood grain. Allow the stain to dry according to label directions before applying a protective clear top coat such as a polyurethane or lacquer.

How much sanding is necessary?

Sanding is an important step that can affect the overall aesthetic outcome of your wood project. Start by selecting the right sandpaper. Inferior paper will wear out quickly, load up rapidly with sanding dust and create broad, deep scratches that are difficult to remove.

STEP 1: Start with the coarsest grit of sandpaper (80- to 100-grit) to remove any large scratches. We think that it's okay to use a random-orbital sander, but some purists claim that all sanding should be done by hand. You can decide what's best for your project.

Always sand in the direction of the wood grain, never against. Remove sanding dust before moving onto the next round of sandpaper. Sanding dust can be removed using a lint-free cloth lightly dampened with mineral spirits.

STEP 2: Now move to 120 to 150-grit paper and sand entire surface. Remove the sanding dust.

STEP 3: Finally move to fine 180-grit sandpaper for a final sweep over the wood surface. Remember to remove all sanding dust before beginning the stain application.

How do I choose the right wood for my project?

Wood	Uses
Ash (White)	Baseball bats, tennis rackets, pool cues, canoe paddles, tool handles and furniture. Also used for veneers and boat building.
Ash (Black)	Joinery, internal cabinetry, baskets, plywood and veneers.
Baku	Furniture, cabinetry and turning. Used often for veneers. Also used often for marine plywood and boat building.
Balsa	Life rafts, theater props, model making, toys, and any other situation where a very lightweight wood is desired.
Basswood	Turning, wood carving, boxes, crates and toys.
Birch	Plywood, furniture, cabinets, toys and veneers.
Butternut	Church altars, boat trim and veneers. The nut is used to make a sweet syrup.
Cedar (Alaskan Yellow)	Boat building, furniture and veneers.
Cedar (Aromatic)	Carvings and closet linings.
Cedar (Spanish)	Cigar humidors (boxes), furniture, boat building and musical instruments.
Cedar (Western Red)	Decks, doors, patio furniture, boat building (wood strip canoes) and exterior millwork.
Cherry (Black)	Furniture, cabinetry and turnings.
Chestnut (American)	Furniture, poles and paneling.
Cyprus (Bald)	Docks, bridges, boats, posts and indoor and outdoor furniture.
Douglas-Fir	Trimming, veneers and joinery.
Ebony	Veneers, inlay, pool cues and turnings.
Elm (White)	Furniture, boat building and veneers.
Hickory	Cabinetry, tool handles and sports equipment.
Holly	Inlays, decorative veneers and musical instruments.
Kingwood	Turnings, veneers, inlays and marquetry.
Lacewood	Veneers, decorative boxes and ornaments, plywood and turning.

Mahogany (African)	Furniture, boat building, veneers, joinery and plywood.
Mahogany (Honduras)	Fine furniture, cabinet making, plywood, turning, boat building and outdoor furniture.
Makore (African Cherry)	Furniture, cabinetry and turning. Used often as a veneer. Also used often in marine plywood and boat building.
Maple (Hard)	Floors, bowling alleys, turnings, furniture, cabinets, musical instruments, veneers, cutting boards, counter tops etc.
Oak (European)	Trees stained by the "beef-steak" fungus are often converted into highly figured veneers.
Oak (Red)	Furniture, cabinets, veneers and flooring.
Oak (White)	Fine furniture, whiskey barrels, boat building and cabinetmaking.
Olivewood	Small turnings, carvings and inlay work.
Pecan	Cabinets, furniture, drumbsticks, turning and veneers.
Pine Ponderosa	Furniture, trim, turnings and veneers.
Pine (Southern Yellow)	Construction, furniture, plywood and veneers.
Pine (White)	Furniture, moldings, plywood, boat building, carpentry and veneers.
Poplar (Yellow)	Joinery, cabinetry, musical instruments, furniture and plywood.
Purpleheart	Veneers, turnings, furniture, tool handles, etc.
Redwood (California)	Decks, furniture, fences, exterior trim, posts and light posts.
Rosewood (Honduras)	Musical instruments, pen turning and fine veneers.
Rosewood (Indonesian)	Furniture, cabinetry, veneer, musical instruments and turnings.
Walnut (Black)	Fine furniture, carving, gunstocks and plywood.
Zebrawood	Turnings, veneers, furniture, tool handles and pens.

How do I protect bare wood?

The best way to protect bare wood is to apply polyurethane.

What type of safety equipment should I use to complete a staining project?

Gloves: Protect your hands from chemicals with gloves. If you're using non-toxic products like stains and most finishes, a simple pair of latex or vinyl gloves will do the job just fine. If you'll be working with chemicals like strippers, use gloves made specifically for working with strong chemicals, such as nitrile gloves.

Safety goggles: Protect your eyes by wearing safety goggles or glasses when finishing.

Dust mask or respirator: If you're using harsh solvents, it's a good idea to use a respirator. A dust mask is usually sufficient if you're not stripping or spraying on your finish. Always, always read product warnings and directions before starting your project.

Drop cloths: Even if you're working in your shop or garage, you'll want to protect the floor with a drop cloth.

Fan: Keep your work area properly ventilated with fans.

Just in case kit: This kit includes a telephone, first aid kit, eye wash and a fire extinguisher.

What type of polyurethane should I use?

After taking the time to prepare and stain your project, you want it to last. A protective topcoat will prevent damage from scratches, scuffs and spills. There are different top coats available based on desired appearance and protection needs.

The most common interior top coat is polyurethane. Polyurethane provides a hard-shell coating that will prolong the beauty of your finished wood for years to come. Like paint, polyurethane comes in sheens, most commonly satin, semi-gloss and gloss. Sheen is a matter of personal preference.

Never Wet Faqs

How abrasion resistant is Rust-Oleum NeverWet?

Rust-Oleum NeverWet is resistant to normal wear and tear; however, with excessive abrasion or if applied to a walking surface, the superhydrophobic properties will be quickly diminished. In many situations, the superhydrophobic action may be reduced, but the remaining Top Coat and Base Coat still provide protection to the coated surface.

Superhydrophobicity can be restored by scuff sanding the object to remove the residual Top Coat, and then recoating the object with Base Coat and Top Coat

Are coated items “breathable”?

The breath-ability of a coated item is dependent on how heavy the Base Coat is applied.

The lighter the Base Coat, the more breathable the item will be. If a continuous, heavy film is applied, the surface will not be breathable.

Can NeverWet be used on electronics?

No, NeverWet should not be used on electronics.

Can NeverWet be recoated?

If the superhydrophobic properties are diminished, NeverWet can be reapplied. Lightly sand the surface of the coated object to remove any remaining Top Coat, and then reapply the Base and Top Coat according to the directions on the previous page.

Can NeverWet be removed?

Yes. If you desire to remove NeverWet completely, it can be removed by first sanding and then wiping the treated object with Xylol or mineral spirits.

Can NeverWet be used on fabric?

Rust-Oleum NeverWet will adhere to most fabrics, but it will leave a flat milky haze on the surface. As with other substrates, test in an inconspicuous area before applying to the entire surface. Particular attention should be paid to seams. Apply a heavier than normal coat of Base Coat around seams to help prevent liquids from penetrating those areas.

Can NeverWet be applied to glass?

Yes, but the glass will no longer be transparent. NeverWet dries to a Flat Frosted Clear color, therefore, it should never be applied to windshields or automobile windows. NeverWet will work on any glass that you want to have superhydrophobic properties, but don't need to see through.

Can NeverWet be painted over?

No, if the Top Coat is covered with any type of coating, the superhydrophobic properties will be lost.

Can Rust-Oleum NeverWet be used on surfaces that are continuously submerged?

Rust-Oleum NeverWet relies on a layer of air to form the superhydrophobic coating on the surface of the object. For this reason the product is not recommended for surfaces continuously submerged in water or liquid.

Does NeverWet work with all liquids?

Certain solvents, alcohols and soap/detergents will cause the surface of the coating to lose superhydrophobicity. Once these chemicals are removed, the superhydrophobicity will generally return. NeverWet is less effective at repelling motor oils and oil based liquids.

How long will the treatment last?

Environmental conditions will affect the longevity of the NeverWet coating. Abrasion is the leading cause of reduction in the coating's life, but also exposure to things such as high pressure water can reduce the life of the coating.