



ATELIER AUTÊNTICO

ANNIE SLOAN® CHALK PAINT™ - TIPS & TRICKS

Before using the paint: Tip the can over and give it a good shake. You want to make sure the paint is well mixed and evenly distributed. Keep something to hand to stir the paint occasionally.

Before you start: Decide on the effect you are trying to achieve. If you want textured paint, leave it to stand without the lid so it thickens. If you are after a smooth finish, add a little water slowly and stir well to get a thinner consistency. This is particularly important when it is hot. The paint will thicken or thin depending on the environment and temperature. I rarely use the paint straight from the tin. I normally pour it into a smaller container with a lid. This way I don't alter the consistency of an entire paint can.

Prepping: It is normally not necessary to sand and prime your piece before you start, but make sure that it is clean and free of dirt, any loose paint etc. If the piece has previously been stained or varnished, I tend to use two coats of clear shellac, lacquer or primer, so that it doesn't bleed through.

Brushes: It is not necessary to use Annie Sloan brushes. We do advise to use a quality brush though. Cheap brushes tend to loose a lot of hairs, which is really annoying and the finish just isn't that great. They also don't last very long and cost more money in the long run. Clean with soap and water.

Paint: Annie Sloan® Chalk Paint™ is much thicker and has more pigment than ordinary paint. This means that the coverage is much better and usually two coats is all that's needed.

It is possible to lighten the colours with either Old White, for a more vintage look or Pure White, for a more modern take. Do this gradually, until you achieve the right tone. Keep in mind that the paint dries slightly darker. You can also extend the colour palette by mixing the different colours.

Wax: It is important to use a coat of wax as a final finish once the paint is completely dry. It will protect your piece and add definition. Either apply the wax with an old cloth (lint free and clean) or a brush. I normally use a brush - it's quicker and the finish is less streaky.

Less is definitely more. Apply the wax as if putting on hand lotion, massaging it into the paint to help it absorb. Let dry completely overnight and polish to a shine with a cloth, if desired. I tend to apply two coats of wax to table tops, to give better protection. It will take around 2 weeks for the wax to cure completely.

When using dark wax to add dimension, an aged quality or to darken the paint colour, apply a coat of clear wax first. This way you are actually not staining the paint. If you applied too much dark wax, it is simple to take it off again with clear wax.

Don't forget to clean your wax brush with soap and water, otherwise the wax will harden and the brush is ruined.

What can I paint with Chalk Paint™? The paint has an amazing quality and virtually sticks to any surface. Paint wood, metal, glass, fabric and matt plastic.

Distressing: If you are aiming for a vintage look, distressing is a great way to do so. You can use fine sand paper. It's best to do so after waxing - less dust and more control over how much paint is taken off.

More techniques: There are many more techniques that can be used for Chalk Paint™, too numerous to explain here. Paint washes, colouring wax, gilded effects, crackle effect...the list goes on and on. We run regular courses here at Atelier Autêntico, where we teach more advanced techniques. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for future dates.

Feel free to contact us at atelier@atelierautentico.pt if you have any questions.

Happy painting,

Ruth & Sérgio