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FACT SHEET MURAL PAINT

Tips on painting a mural

For the newcomer, painting a mural can be quite daunting depending on its size, complexity and the location. The best murals are painted on site but sometimes this is impractical and the mural is painted on a board such as marine plywood and then attached to the wall. Murals can be for exterior and interior surfaces.

What paint is best to use.

Vipond's Acrylic Gloss /Low Sheen and or Viponds Artist's Acrylic are water based and the ideal choice of paints as they have exceptional exterior durability having been tested by time. They are used in the sign industry to paint and sign walls, so they must be of the highest quality. The pigments have a very high lightfastness rating and the paint uses premium acrylic resin. The coverage and flow of the paints are excellent and the extensive stock colour range, with the ability to mix colours, offers an unlimited palette of colours.

The paints are available in gloss and low sheen/matt. Selection of sheen level is a personal choice. Gloss will give the most vivid and bright colours, but in the sun, the light reflection can sometimes distort the mural making it difficult to see fine detail. Matt and low sheen can be easier to use because they contain extenders to reduce the gloss which gives the paint more body. All can be used for interior and exterior murals and can be blended to create semi-gloss and satin sheen finishes.

Surface Preparation

Existing surface – It is so important to prepare the surface thoroughly to ensure the mural has a long life. Exterior surfaces are the most critical as they may have weathered to such an extent that they may require filling and binding. In some cases it may be prudent to paint the mural onto marine plywood and attach it to the wall. It is important to seek the correct advise if unsure.

Concrete, Masonry and Brick - High pressure wash to remove all dirt and any surface laitance. Apply a coat of Vipond's Multi purpose Primer, Sealer Undercoat. On tilt slab concrete apply a coat of Viponds Concrete Prep followed by a coat of Multi purpose primer, Sealer Undercoat.

Timber - Sand timber and apply a coat of Acrylic Wood Primer or Oil based pink primer if the wood is tannin rich.

Metal – Thoroughly clean and remove all traces of grease and oil. Apply appropriate metal primer suitable to accept water based topcoats.

Marine Plywood – This ply has excellent exterior durability and can be painted. Lightly sand and apply Vipond's Multipurpose Primer, Sealer Undercoat. Paint front and back and the edges (2 coats).

Plastic Surfaces – There is a wide range of plastics that sometimes need decorating. eg wheelie bins, recycled moulded plastic panels, corflute which are made from polypropylene or polyethylene. Water based products will have problems with adhesion. Just apply a coat of Vipond's Fluteboard Primer. If in doubt of the type of plastic do an adhesion test.

Previously Painted Surfaces – Use a wire brush and scraper to remove all flaking paint and sand glossy areas. Check adhesion of remaining paint. Thoroughly clean with sugar soap then apply a coat of Vipond's Multi purpose Primer, Sealer Undercoat.

Applying one or two coats of Vipond's Multi purpose Primer Sealer Undercoat to achieve a uniform background is the best base when using accent colours.

Colour Selection and Paint Rheology

We have 40 standard colours in our range. These are deep accent colours with a high pigment loading covering the broad spectrum of the colour wheel. They can all be blended to increase your colour palette or added to white to make a pastel range.

The paints have a medium viscosity and can be applied without adjustment. If required thin with water to produce a more transparent finish or thicken with our impasto gel to produce a texture like finish. In hot weather add our Acrylic Retarder / Hot Weather Thinner to slow the drying to keep a wet edge and stop brushes from drying out.

Mural Design and How Much Paint

Now that Your mural design should be sketched on paper and then the outline of the design needs to be transferred to the wall. Rule some squares on your paper sketch (approx 4cm x 4 cm) then transpose the **same number** of squares onto the wall. Use these square grids as the guide to draw the outline of the design on the wall.

To estimate your paint requirement allow for paint coverage of 10 square metres per litre per coat. So for a mural 5 metres x 4 metres = 20 square metres you would require 4 litres for two coats. That is simple if it is one colour, but most murals there could be 10 or more colours. Most of our colours are available in 4 litres, 1 litres, 500mls and 200mls. Once you have completed a few murals then selecting of colours and quantities will become easier. Please give us a call if you need some help.

Protecting your Mural

The Viponds range of acrylics have excellent exterior durability based on an application of two coats. However, some murals will not have a two coat application and may have some thin wispy colours applied, which if in the full sun may fade prematurely. A two coat application of Viponds Ecoshield Universal Clear will help. It contains UV absorbers which will delay the onset of fading by a couple of years. Available in a semi gloss or satin finish.

Graffiti protection may also be required depending on the location of the mural. Use Viponds Graffiti Coat – a waterbased two pack that has excellent clarity, UV resistance and chemical resistance for ease of graffiti removal with Viponds Graffiti remover. Read the Graffiti Coat PDS before proceeding.

Need more information

Please contact us on (03) 93504188 or email info@viponds.com.au