

WHAT IS THE BEST WAY TO MIX MISS MUSTARD SEED'S MILK PAINT?

There are many ways to mix the milk paint, we offer guidelines on how to mix it and what consistency to look for, however we encourage you to always test out a small amount to make sure that you are happy with the mixture. Milk Paint can be a stain or a solid opaque paint depending on how much water you add.

For a solid opaque look: Mix one-part water to one-part Milk Paint powder. Add water to container/jar first, then add powder and mix with a whisk, electric milk frother or blender. For a super smooth finish, use a blender for best results, otherwise mix with a frother or a whisk for an additional 1-2 minutes for a super fine mix. Mixed Milk Paint should have a table cream consistency for opaque coverage. Once satisfied with consistency, test out a small sample to see if desired consistency is reached. If the brush drags, the mixture is too thick (opaque) and you need to add more water. If sample drips and is too thin (transparent), then add more powder. Adjust as desired and start painting!

Note: Mixing Milk Paint can be like baking bread and the amount of water required will vary based on the humidity of the day and location. It can also vary depending on the amount of pigment in the color being mixed.

MY PAINT LOOKS LUMPY AND UNEVEN – IS THE MILK PAINT BAD?

The majority of the texture and application issues lie in the mixing method of the Milk Paint. A good mix is key to a great finish. Make sure you are stirring your Milk Paint until most of the paint is dissolved. A mini whisk, milk frother, or blender (I use an Oster hand held drink mixer) are great tools for smooth mixes. Let the paint sit for a few minutes (10-15) after mixing to allow limestone and clay dissolve. If you are painting a large project, stir the paint every few minutes to prevent clay from settling and pigments from separating and dip your brush all the way to the bottom of the container. The paint at the top will be thinner and more translucent, especially if a frother was used to mix paint. Some lumpiness is normal and will usually brush out once paint is applied. Small lumps can be smoothed out with a fine sand paper after it's dry and can lead to some unique finishes! Milk paint will resist and chip if it cannot be absorbed, as it is in porous surfaces and raw wood. The ratios of bonding agent can be adjusted depending on the amount of seal or shine on the piece being painted. Do not use the bonding agent or use it in select areas if a "chippy" look is desired. Remember that painting a pre-finished piece without sanding and/or using the Bonding Agent is unpredictable!

WHEN SHOULD I USE BONDING AGENT?

When the surface is previously finished, painted with a non-porous paint or sealed. Milk paint will resist and chip if it cannot be absorbed, as it is in porous surfaces and raw wood. The ratios of bonding agent can be adjusted depending on the amount of seal or shine on the piece being painted. I recommend a 3:1 ratio of mixed milk paint to bonding agent. You can mix up to a maximum ratio of 1:1 with mixed milk paint. Pre-mix your paint with a suitable amount of water and let stand for 10 minutes. Slowly mix in desired amount of bonding agent. You will need to occasionally stir your mixture to keep the pigments from settling to the bottom. Do not use the bonding agent or use it in select areas if a "chippy" look is desired. Remember that painting a pre-finished piece without sanding and/or using the Bonding Agent is unpredictable!

