

Selecting Low-VOC Paints

This playbook outlines the steps for selecting and using low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) paints for healthier interior environments. It emphasizes the importance of choosing the right products to ensure improved indoor air quality.

Step 1: **Research**

Understand what VOCs are and their effects on indoor air quality. Research the different types and brands of low-VOC paints available on the market.

Step 2: **Certifications**

Look for reputable certifications and labels on paint cans that indicate low VOC content. Common certifications include Green Seal, ECOLOGO, and GREENGUARD.

Step 3: **Paint Selection**

Select paints with VOC levels that are less than 50 grams per liter for flat finishes and less than 150 grams per liter for non-flat finishes.

Step 4: **Color Choice**

Choose your desired color. Be aware that sometimes the tinting process can add VOCs, so consult with the retailer or manufacturer if necessary.

Step 5: **Ventilation**

Plan for proper ventilation during and after painting. Ensure windows and doors can be opened or use fans and air purifiers to circulate fresh air and expedite the off-gassing process.

Step 6: **Application**

Prepare the area by cleaning and priming surfaces as needed. Use proper painting techniques for application, following the manufacturer's guidelines for the best results.

Step 7: **Disposal**

After the project, dispose of any leftover paint and materials properly. Check local regulations for hazardous waste disposal to ensure environmental safety.

General Notes

Safety Precautions

Always wear protective gear like gloves and masks when handling and applying paint. Keep children and pets away from the painted areas until completely dry.

Drying Time

Be aware that drying time can vary based on paint type, application thickness, and environmental conditions. It's recommended to wait at least 24 to 48 hours before assuming the space is VOC-free.