

# HOW TO COLOR WASH A WALL



Bring a more inviting look and feel to any room by using a technique known as color washing or glaze painting. Benjamin Moore's [Studio Finishes® Latex Glaze \(N405\)](#) is directly mixed with the paint color of your choice to create the solution needed to color wash walls and create a beautiful faux finish. Drawing from Tuscan roots, color washed walls are ideal for dining rooms and other areas where guests will gather, and its decorative look will exude warmth and charm anyplace in your home.

Start your color wash journey by choosing your paint color. Selecting shades from the same color strip is the best way to combine hues that complement one another. Use one of the lighter shades from the strip as your basecoat, and choose a satin or semi-gloss finish to start building the finish.

## Color Washing Brushes and Supplies

One of the keys to a successful color wash, sometimes referred to as “faux painting,” is to have the right supplies. Color washing can be achieved by sponge painting or brushing the latex glaze onto walls. A paint brush will provide a more textured look, while sponges or soft rags will create a softer, more diffused appearance.

Studio Finishes is available exclusively at local paint and hardware stores authorized to sell Benjamin Moore. Start with this checklist, then visit your local store for more information, or use our [store locator](#) to find a retailer near you.

You will need:

- 3-inch or 4-inch Benjamin Moore paint brush or soft rags/sponges
- High-quality acrylic or latex paint, like [Regal® Select Interior](#) or [Aura® Interior Paint](#), in two or more paint colors, in satin sheen for the basecoat, and eggshell sheen to mix with the glaze
- [Studio Finishes® Latex Glaze\(N405\)](#)
- Disposable latex gloves
- Drop cloth
- Paint tray
- Painter's tape
- Water for cleanup

## Step #1: Prepare Walls for Color Washing

Surfaces must be properly prepared before you begin glaze painting walls. Clean your walls thoroughly and repair any protruding nails or other imperfections.

For best results, use [Fresh Start® 100% Acrylic Primer \(N023\)](#) before applying your base color. Be sure to tape off any edges you wish to protect, such as those along ceilings, windows, and doors.

After you have prepared your walls, apply your selected base color, taking care to follow the label directions. Allow the base color ample time to dry. We suggest waiting at least 48 hours before moving on to the next step.

## Step #2: Glaze Painting Your Walls

Once your base color is dry, you can select the color washing paint technique of your choice, using either a brush or rag/sponge. Begin by mixing Studio Finishes Latex Glaze with a latex or acrylic paint with an eggshell sheen to minimize glare. A good ratio to start with is four parts glaze to one part paint (adding an additional one-half to one part water will further the transparency of the glaze). The more glaze you add, the more transparent the effect. Using less glaze will allow more of the base color to show through.

Next, dip a soft cloth or sea sponge into your glaze mixture. The soft cloth will give glaze a more subtle appearance, while sponge painting walls will give a more textured look.

Apply the glaze mixture to your wall using a crosshatch motion, creating large, overlapping X-shaped stripes. Continue this wiping technique until the entire surface is covered, and feather out any harsh brush strokes by lightly sweeping over the glaze with a clean, dry brush. For a gentler finish, apply the glaze in a random wiping or circular motion, as if you were washing the wall. Be sure to let the glaze dry thoroughly.

**Tip:** When you color wash an entire room, glaze walls opposite from one another first. This will allow adequate time for drying and avoid smudging the wet glaze.

## Step #3: Discover More Color Wash Painting Techniques

There are different wall painting techniques that will make your color washed walls stand out.

- For different visual effects, vary your wiping motions as you apply the glaze.
- To achieve the look of an aged patina, apply a lighter glaze over a darker glaze.
- For a look with richer color depth, glaze walls with different paint colors: a base color, a glaze darker than your base paint color, and a third deeper glaze color.

**Have More Questions?** Visit your [local Benjamin Moore store](#) or contact [Customer Support](#).