



TIPS:

CLEANING, REPAIR AND PROTECTION OF NATURAL PAINTS

Who doesn't know it: everything has just been renovated and already during the move-in there is the first damage, the wet dog shakes in front of the new walls or you stumble and a drink splashes on the wall. During the subsequent spot repairs, mistakes are often made that make the original problem even worse or even more visible.

Here are a few tips on possibilities and impossibilities:

Most important rule: if possible, do not wipe damp or wash wet!

In general, all our wall paints are not only fully vapour permeable, but also absorbent. As a result, liquid oily or watery stains quickly penetrate the paint and cannot be completely washed out, even in the case of waterproof Silicate-, Lime- and GekkoSOL paints. In the best case, you only achieve a reduction in intensity, but you drive the stain wider.

Other paints in our range are water-reversible: Clay Paints for example. Here, damp or wet cleaning leads to dissolution and removal of the coatings, which is sometimes even advantageous because the dirt that has been absorbed can be carefully wiped away with a damp cloth together with some of the paint layer.

Dry dirt/soiling, e.g. abrasion from scraped cardboard boxes, laundry baskets, garden soil, field dust from your dog or flours and powders in the kitchen area can usually be brushed or rubbed off dry with a fingernail brush, a dry sponge or a light-coloured rubber/eraser. Do not wipe with a damp cloth, as this will only make the soiling worse and aggravate the problem.

Tea, coffee, and some **colouring juices and felt-tip pens** can often and completely non-toxically be bleached with hydrogen peroxide in concentrations from 10%, or even higher, and thus become almost to completely invisible. It is worth trying in any case. Caution: Hydrogen peroxide is aggressive; wear protective goggles and gloves! Do not bleach with chlorine, this leaves dark shadows due to hygroscopic salinisation.

Greasy stains (salad oil, ice cream, greasy fingers ...) penetrate and usually cannot be removed. If you immediately press a ball of cloth or cotton ball soaked in acetone onto the grease splashes you have just applied, there is a small chance that you will be able to pull out at least part of the grease. Caution: Wear gloves, acetone also degreases your skin!

Damages, scratches or scuffs: Never simply paint them over with a paintbrush; this tends to leave unattractive painted edges that only accentuate the actual problem in a different way.





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Dilute the touch-up paint with a little water and drip it centrally onto an old bucket lid or plate, for example. Then take up some paint with the tip of a brush and dab the brush on the lid/plate rim some more. Then dab one or more wafer-thin coats vertically only on the damaged areas as needed and fill them in. Of course, you will still be able to see the repairs later on if you look closely, but it is much more inconspicuous than simply having put a brushstroke over it. This method works well for touching up white paintwork. When touching up coloured paints, there is usually a colour difference after drying, especially with lime paints. With coloured paints, it is often better to repaint the entire wall.

Colour-intensive and non-removable soiling: There are two possibilities here. Either wait until enough stains have accumulated and then repaint the entire wall. Or sand out isolated stains on white paints or, in the case of non-waterproof paints, wash out the stains with a soft sponge together with the paint. Very intense stains should always be removed before repainting to avoid bleeding into the next coat.

Protection against soiling and sealing: Quite often we are asked for fully washable wall paints or a sealant to be applied afterwards (“elephant skin”) for our wall paints, because children, pets and general life might bring so much dirt onto the walls that occasional cleaning is necessary. This is effectively achievable only with synthetic resin sealers or non-absorbent latex paints, both silky to glossy and virtually vapour-proof. We do not have anything like this in our range because it contradicts our product philosophy. Even commercially available normal interior dispersion paints, even of the best wet abrasion class, resist a cleaning process but do not become completely clean once dirt/grease/dye has been absorbed. Moreover, cleaning processes on very matt paints often leave differences in gloss after drying. Water resistance is therefore not the same as cleanability. One way to protect surfaces effectively and naturally, at least against aqueous contamination, is to soap lime. However, it does not protect against oil and grease stains either.

You can find instructions on how to do this here:

[Protection and care of lime paints with Marseille soap](#)

