

Smart Words for Smart Homeowners

THE EXPERIENCE OF EXPERTS AND THEIR ADVICE ON RELEVANT HOMEOWNER TOPICS

The Best Paint Luster For Each Room

Overview

Think of paint sheen, or luster, as the glossiness of the applied finish. This luster (or lack of luster) has trade offs. It can offer reflectivity, richness, depth of color, washability and the hiding of wall imperfections. In general the best quality paints deliver almost all the traits we want and need but flat paint can't be reflective, and gloss finishes can't usually hide a bad spackle job.

What Works?

What is the appropriate sheen or luster for the walls in a room? Here are some opinions from people who know.

- 1) Adult bedrooms should always be coated in a flat so they don't reflect much light at night. This offers you a better nights sleep. Flats look deeper also.
- 2) Bedrooms of young children should always be painted in a low luster so they can be wiped clean more easily. Low Luster covers a wide range of shininess and means different things in different brands.
- 3) Ceilings are usually painted flat.
- 4) Where moisture is evident, like bathrooms, a low luster is best because it sheds moisture more readily.
- 5) High traffic areas, where hands can touch the walls, like kitchens and hallways and children's rooms should Not be flat. So a low luster is best.
- 6) Closets interiors should always be Semi Gloss, or better yet, High Gloss white. That's so clothes that slide across the back walls

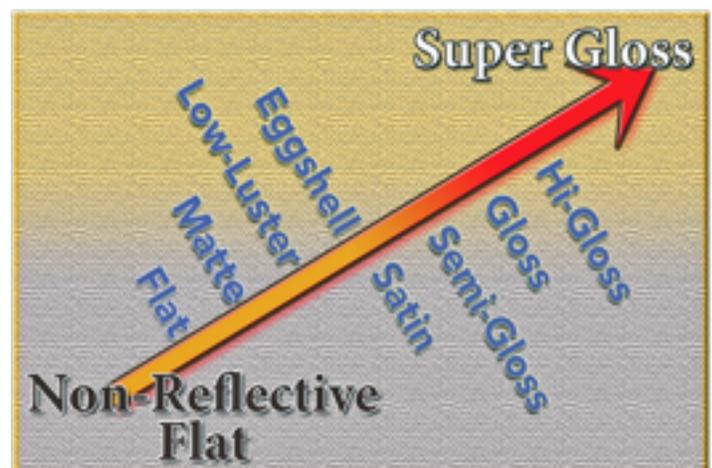


don't get frayed elbows and shoulders. Each time you remove or replace any item, the items next to it will move. Ever pull a dark colored jacket or dress from the closet to discover the sleeve is cloudy or dusty? That's from some cheap flat paint rubbing on it. Gloss white reflects light to the dark interiors.

- 7) Some good suggestions for the higher luster finishes are: bathrooms, kitchens, mud rooms, doors, baseboards and most trim.

Lusters Variants

Paint retailers have some variation on the scale from dull or non-reflective flat up the luminosity steps to the highly reflective super high gloss coatings.



You Need To Know

There are many brand names that retailers sell. There are few real makers of paint products. There are fewer companies that make high quality paint. Paint companies usually have their own stores and their own people who know about coatings.

