

Smart Words for Smart Homeowners

THE EXPERIENCE OF EXPERTS AND THEIR ADVICE ON RELEVANT HOMEOWNER TOPICS

The Importance Of Paint Luster

Overview

Here are some insights into paint lusters and why using the proper luster serves your needs better. Although not all luster gradations are available for every paint, you can still select the best for each area or job. Typically increased luster equals increased sheen and reflectance. Every paint manufacturer has its own luster designation so check before ordering.

More Traffic = More Luster

You are balancing the need for long term durability with easy cleanup and color/tonal depth. In rooms and areas that little hands frequent add luster (tighten pores) so you can clean the areas easily. In high traffic areas or areas that need to take advantage of reflected light, increase its reflectance with more luster and higher sheen. One caveat that needs mentioning regarding cheap gloss paint; it may chip easier than good/expensive gloss paint. To achieve the smoothest finish when using Semi-Gloss, Gloss and Hi-Gloss paint, apply multiple thin coats rather than one thick coat.



Area or Task	Paint Luster	Advantage
Most Ceilings. Walls In Living Room, Master Bedroom, Dens.	FLAT	Reflects Very Little Light. Harder To Clean. Rich Appearance & Color Depth. Hides Some Imperfections.
Most Walls In Dinning Room, Baths, Family Room, Children's Bedrooms, Playrooms.	LOW GLOSS, SATIN, MATTE	Reflects Some Light. Somewhat Easier To Clean. Rich Appearance & Color Depth.
Most Workshop Ceilings, Walls In Baths, Garage Walls.	LOW GLOSS, SATIN, EGG SHELL	Reflects More Light. Easier To Clean. Rich Appearance & Color Depth.
Cabinets, Trim, Wainscoting, Heater & Radiator Covers, Bedroom & Closet Doors.	EGG SHELL , SEMI-GLOSS,	Reflects More Light. Easier To Clean. Increased Stain Resistance.
Stair Treads, Balusters, Painted Hand Railings, Exterior Trim, Exterior Flat Fascia, Shutters, Entry Doors. Inside Closet Walls. Fences & Outdoor Gates.	SEMI-GLOSS, GLOSS, HI-GLOSS	Reflects More Light. Easiest To Clean. Increased Stain Resistance. Increase Reflectance. High-moisture Areas.

Gradation Details:

- ✓ Flat is a very low-sheen paint with a non-reflective finish that touches up well and hides minor surface imperfections. It's ideal for low traffic areas, interior walls and interior ceilings.
- ✓ Matte and Low Gloss have a low luster reflective finish that is durable, easier to clean, touches up well. These lusters also hide minor surface imperfections. Great for low to moderate traffic areas, such as bedrooms, and interior walls.
- ✓ Eggshell has a velvety appearance and is a good choice in moderate traffic areas such as dinning rooms and living rooms.
- ✓ Satin Enamel for a pearl-like appearance in moderate to high traffic areas or areas that have some exposure to moisture, such as kitchens.
- ✓ Semi-Gloss for a radiant sheen that is great on cabinets and trim, high-traffic areas and high-moisture areas.
- ✓ Gloss & Hi-Gloss create bright, shiny appearance. This is great for high-use surfaces & exteriors.

