

Chalk Painting session
State OHCE meeting, July 2017
Javonna Earsom presenter

Remember the Chalk Paint basics: no priming, stripping or sanding!

Tip #1 Assess your piece. You really don't need to prime or prep. If it is super shiny go over with a sanding block to knock back the shine. If I think it has been polished with furniture polish over the years, I will wipe it down with mineral spirits on a paper towel to dissolve any polish.

If the piece has flakes or gouges those are issues that need to be addressed as the paint does not make those problems disappear.

If you have a piece of furniture that starts to bleed while you are painting (which means a discoloration comes through your lovely paint job), stop painting! Get a can of Zinsser Clear Shellac and go over the entire piece. It will dry quickly and then you can resume your paint job. Another reason you may want to seal a piece with Zinsser Shellac is if it has a bad odor, like mustiness or smoke damage. Seal the entire piece first; start painting when shellac has dried.

Tip #2 Chalk Paint dries quickly so don't use repetitive brush strokes or you will get a rough finish. Long fluid stokes are best. Load your brush up with the paint and use longer strokes across the piece, trying not to go back and forth over your strokes as you can with latex and oil paints. This is something you will need to adjust your style of painting. Longer fluid strokes. Because the paint dries quickly, wrap your brush in foil or press& seal if you are taking a break, otherwise it will be crunchy and stiff in short order.

Tip #3 One light coat of paint, followed by a second light coat should be your protocol for most pieces of furniture. When you start your first coat, expect to see brush strokes and some of the wood peeking through. Two light coats of paint is the rule, not a heavy gloppy first coat to try to cover the surface. When you apply the second coat "kiss" the tips of the brush in a bit of water to help the second coat glide on smoothly. It makes a huge difference.

Tip #4 After the two coats are finished, this the time to decide to distress or not. I prefer to distress before I wax. It's a personal preference. Go over the edges where it would be worn authentically with the passage of time. Resist the spotted look; a little bit here and a little bit there creates the dreaded Leopard look!

Tip #5 Now your piece is painted and distressed (or not) and ready for waxing. Apply wax in sections and wipe off excess wax. Repeat until finished.

Use a wax brush to apply a coat of Clear Wax. If you buy one thing, make it a wax brush. It is worth its weight in gold. Apply a small amount of wax by kissing the tips of the wax brush onto the wax and then apply to the surface of the furniture. Brush it in with a fair amount of pressure so the wax penetrates the painted finish.

Cover about a two square foot of area, then take a lint free cloth and rub it down to remove any residual wax. You don't want extra wax on a piece as it will not dry properly. Then move to the next area and repeat the process. Remove any brush hairs when waxing or they will become

part of your finish. When you have finished the entire piece wait 24 hours and then take a clean lint free cloth and buff.

Buff means to rub the cloth or brush briskly over the surface and you will see a sheen develop. It takes a piece **21-28 days for wax to fully cure** so until then use extra care with your piece.

Tip #6 Caring for your wax brush: If I am doing a lot of painting and waxing I store my wax brush in a Ziploc bag. It keeps it nice and supple, ready to be used, even several days later. I don't like to wash my wax brush until I am finished with it for a period of time. Wash your brush with warm water and Dawn dishwashing liquid. It cuts through the wax nicely. Then I paper towel it off and shape the bristles together as I towel it off, then place flat to dry.

Tip #7 If you plan to age your piece with **dark wax**, you want to apply it right after you apply the Clear wax. Don't let the clear wax dry first; if you do then lightly wax again with clear wax, then apply small amounts of dark wax in areas that would look good with a patina. Apply dark wax with a separate wax brush, like the one shown above or a cloth. After you apply a small amount of dark wax, use a clean cloth and rub it around on the piece; continue until the piece is done. Do not use your clear wax brush for dark wax as it will cause staining and render it ineffective for creating a clear wax finish in the future.

Tip #8 Clear wax is a dark wax magic eraser! Too much dark wax? If you think your piece got too dark with your application, add some clear wax with a cloth and rub to remove the dark wax area you would like to lighten up.

Tip #9: A combination of a little dark wax mixed with the clear wax on a paper plate and then applied can be an easier way to use dark wax. Try this to see if you prefer this method. Remember to always apply any dark wax over a fresh moist coat of clear wax.

Tip #10 Dark wax changes the color of Chalk Paint. Make a sample board with your paint color, wax the entire thing, then use dark wax over half the section so you can access the effect of the dark wax.

Tip #11 Do not use wax on outdoor items. Chalk Paint can be applied to front doors, home exteriors, bird houses, metal and cement garden statuary and more. The reason we don't wax is that the warmth of the sunlight keeps the wax from curing.

Tip #12 Caring for your piece. Do not use furniture polish on your waxed pieces. A damp clean cloth will do the trick. Smudges can be removed by applying a bit of clear wax and buffing out the spots. Over time surfaces can benefit from another a coat of wax, particularly on pieces that are getting rubbed down a lot over time.