



WOOD FINISHES DIRECT

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For purchasing information visit:
[Farrow and Ball Wood Primer and Undercoat](#)

PRODUCT ADVICE SHEET

Wood Primer & Undercoat

All Farrow & Ball paints are water based, making them low-odour, low-VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds), and quick to dry. They also score the highest possible A+ rating for indoor air quality in accordance with the independently conducted French Indoor Air Quality Decree N° 2011-321 – Arrêté April 2011.

Available Tin Sizes: ,750 ml,2.5 L,5 L,

In four colours (White & Light Tones, Mid Tones, Red & Warm Tones and Dark Tones) designed to match the chosen top coat colour. Available to order direct from farrow-ball.com, through our Customer Services team at sales@farrow-ball.com or on +44 (0) 1202 876141, and in showrooms and selected stockists internationally.

Product Overview:

Our Wood Primer & Undercoat is suitable for bare or previously painted interior and exterior wood, including floorboards and knots. It creates a smooth, protective, easy-to-paint base for Dead Flat®, Modern Eggshell, Estate® Eggshell, Exterior Eggshell or Full Gloss. Available in four shades to complement your chosen topcoat for a durable, even, colour-rich finish.

Priming and Undercoating Advice:

Using a Primer & Undercoat seals the surface you're painting on. You should have a full, solid coat of Primer & Undercoat before applying your topcoat, to ensure that your chosen Farrow & Ball finish sticks to it fully, is evenly absorbed, and has a smooth and even finish with rich depth of colour. Don't over dilute the Primer & Undercoat or mist coat. This will reduce their opacity, causing an uneven finish and incomplete colour development. Before applying the top coat, consider if a second, undiluted coat of Primer & Undercoat is needed to achieve full opacity.

Cleaning Prior to Painting:

For best results, make sure your surface, tools and product are clean before you begin. For most surfaces we would recommend using a dilute Sugar Soap solution following the manufacturer's instructions. We do not recommend using solvent-based cleaning products or strong alkaline solutions as these can impact adhesion. After cleaning, wipe the surface with a damp cloth and allow to dry. When opening a new tin of paint, don't allow any dust or debris to fall from the lid into the contents. If you're reusing a tin of paint, we recommend straining it. Make sure your tools are clean, including your stirrer, and we recommend dampening your brush or roller then removing excess water before loading with paint.

New and Unpainted Interior Wood (Not Floors) Preparation:

Ensure all surfaces are sound, clean, dry and free from dirt, grease and other contamination. Fill any cracks, holes and open joints with an appropriate filler. To improve the paint's adhesion, lightly sand the surface. Prepare any filled, knotty or resinous areas as above and patch prime with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat. Apply one coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat in the correct colour tone for your top coat. Allow a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats. Apply two coats of your chosen Farrow & Ball finish, allowing the correct drying time between coats.

Previously Painted Interior Wood (Not Floors) Preparation:

Ensure all surfaces are sound, clean, dry and free from dirt, grease and other contamination. Remove any areas of old paint which are peeling or blistering as flaking or peeling can occur if you paint over weak paint layers. Blend and 'feather' the edges of areas of old paint, as this helps to smooth out the surface. Fill any cracks, holes and open joints with an appropriate filler. Lightly sand the surface to improve paint adhesion. Patch prime any filled or bare knotty / resinous areas with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat. Apply one coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat, in the correct colour tone for your top coat (and allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats). Then apply two coats of your chosen Farrow & Ball finish, allowing the correct drying time between coats.

Chemical Strippers:

If the surface has existing paint in poor condition or there are many layers and detail has been lost, it may be best to strip the paint with chemical paint stripper. These products can be hazardous, so always follow the manufacturer's instructions and wear protective equipment. Once the paint has been removed, the chemical stripper may need to be neutralised with a neutralising solution. Again, follow the manufacturer's instructions, rinsing with clean water and checking the pH until it's less than eight. Allow the surface to fully dry before applying the correct Primer & Undercoat and your chosen topcoat.

Interior Bare Wood Floors:

Ensure flooring is fixed securely to prevent movement. Fill any cracks with a non-flexible, paintable wood filler and any open joints with a flexible, paintable wood filler. Ensure the floor is thoroughly clean using an appropriate floor cleaner. Sand to a smooth finish, vacuum clean and wipe down with a damp cloth. Allow the wood to dry (less than 10% moisture content). Prepare any knotty or resinous areas as above and patch prime with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat followed by one full coat to seal. Apply two full coats of Farrow & Ball Modern Eggshell.

Repainting Wooden Floors:

Areas of old paint that have peeled or blistered need to be removed. For the best finish and longest service life, as much of the previous coating as possible should be removed. Ensure the floor is thoroughly clean using an appropriate floor cleaner. Sand to a smooth finish, vacuum clean and wipe down with a damp cloth. Allow the wood to dry (less than 10% moisture content). Apply one full coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat to seal. Apply two full coats of Farrow & Ball Modern Eggshell.

Interior MDF Preparation:

Where possible always aim to use high quality MDF, as higher quality MDF tends not to suffer from raised fibres and so will not require surface sanding. Lower quality MDF may contain less tightly bound fibres, which may become raised as paint is applied. If the fibres do become raised, lightly sand the surface between coats to ensure a smooth finish. Lightly sand the edges of the MDF to provide a sound surface and to reduce paint absorption. When sanding MDF, try to create as little dust as possible and wear the appropriate Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE). Apply one coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat, in the correct colour tone for your top coat and allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats. Apply two coats of your chosen Farrow & Ball finish, allowing the correct drying time between coats.

Painting Over Interior Wood Fillers:

Follow the filler manufacturer's application instructions and drying times and patch prime with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat. Apply one coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat in the correct colour tone for your top coat. Allow a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats. Apply two coats of your chosen Farrow & Ball finish, allowing the correct drying time between coats.

Exterior Bare Wood Surface Preparation:

Ensure surfaces are sound, clean, dry and free from dirt, grease and other contamination. Fill any cracks, holes and open joints with a water based exterior wood filler. To improve the paint's adhesion, lightly sand the surface. In environments where wood rotting fungi is likely to occur, treat with exterior wood preservative prior to priming. Prepare any knotty or resinous areas as above and patch prime with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat. Apply one coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat, in the correct colour tone for your top coat, and allow a minimum of 4 hours drying time. Apply two coats of your chosen Farrow & Ball finish, allowing the correct drying time between coats. Please note: Repeatedly repairing cracks, holes and open joints in a surface may indicate that the surface is nearing the end of its life and will require additional effort to maintain it. If this is the case consider renewal or replacement. Not suitable for exterior decking or other pressure treated wood.

Exterior Previously Painted Wood Surface Preparation:

Ensure all surfaces are sound, clean, dry and free from dirt, grease and other contamination. Remove any areas of old paint which are peeling or blistering as flaking or peeling can occur if you paint over weak paint layers. Blend and 'feather' the edges of areas of old paint, as this helps to smooth out the surface. Fill any cracks, holes and open joints with a water based exterior wood filler. Lightly sand the surface to improve paint adhesion. In environments where wood rotting fungi is likely to occur, treat with exterior wood preservative prior to priming. Prepare any knotty or resinous areas as above and patch prime with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat. Apply one coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat, in the correct colour tone for your top coat (and allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats). Then apply two coats of your chosen Farrow & Ball finish, allowing the correct drying time between coats. Please note: Repeatedly repairing cracks, holes and open joints in a surface may indicate that the surface is nearing the end of its life and will require additional effort to maintain it. If this is the case consider renewal or replacement.

Painting Over Exterior Wood Fillers:

Follow the filler manufacturer's application instructions and drying times and patch prime with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat. Apply a coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat in the correct colour tone for your top coat. Allow a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats. Apply two coats of your chosen Farrow & Ball finish, allowing the correct drying time between coats.

Painting Over Putty:

If replacement putty is required for new or existing glazing, for best results use an acrylic based glazing putty which is designed to work well with modern water based paints and primers. Bare wood must first be primed with an undiluted coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat, including the end grain, and allowed to dry for a minimum of 4 hours before applying the glazing putty. Apply the glazing putty following the manufacturer's application instructions and drying times before applying your chosen Farrow & Ball finish as follows: Exterior Eggshell and Full Gloss - Apply an undiluted coat of Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat in the correct colour tone for your top coat (allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats) followed by 2 coats of your chosen top coat (once again allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats). Ensure the glass is thoroughly clean and overlap the final top coat onto the glass by approximately 1mm to achieve a seal.

Knotty or Resinous Wood Preparation:

Heat the knot to draw out any excess resin (we recommend using a hot air paint stripper). Scrape off any residue resin, and then thoroughly clean the area with white or methylated spirit. Allow the area to dry thoroughly before continuing.

Oily Wood Preparation:

Certain woods, such as oak, teak and rosewood, can be quite oily and need additional preparation. Wearing gloves, clean the surface with a cloth soaked with methylated spirits. Continue until the cloth can be rubbed over the surface and removed without any discoloration. Methylated spirits are hazardous, so always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Wipe the surface with hot water and a sugar soap solution and allow to dry fully. Prepare any filled, knotty or resinous areas by patch priming with Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat. Allow to dry, then apply one undiluted coat to the whole surface. Allow four hours drying time between coats. Follow with two coats of your chosen topcoat.

Waxed or Highly Polished Surface Preparation:

If you are painting onto previously waxed or highly polished surfaces, you will need to remove the existing coating of treatment by sanding back prior to painting. We recommend testing a small area as Farrow & Ball paints may not be compatible with some waxes and polishes.

Difficult Surfaces (e.g. Melamine, PVC, ABS, Wall Tiles, Laminates etc.):

Difficult surfaces such as melamine, PVC, ABS, wall tiles and laminates will require careful preparation prior to painting. The surface may need to be degreased with a proprietary cleaner, lightly abraded to achieve a physical key and thoroughly cleaned prior to any coating being applied. Best results will then be achieved by applying a specialist adhesion primer following the manufacturer's instructions prior to applying your chosen Farrow & Ball finish.

Substrate Moisture Content:

Interior Wood = < 15 % : Exterior Wood = < 15 %

Colour Accuracy:

Check for colour accuracy prior to use as Farrow & Ball will not be liable for decorating costs caused as a result of an incorrect colour being applied. When more than one tin of the same colour is to be used ensure that batch numbers are identical or intermix before use. Stir thoroughly before use. Please note that different application tools (e.g. brush, roller, spray) may give a slight visual difference in the final colour. For some darker shades, finishes with different sheen levels painted alongside each other may appear to vary slightly in colour when viewed at certain angles.

How to Apply Paint to Trim by Brush:

Stir thoroughly before use. By 'trim' we mean: skirting boards, picture rails, dado rails, doors, door frames and architraves, interior window sills and window frames (providing they aren't plastic). Farrow & Ball paints are water borne, and unlike solvent borne paints, water borne paint is more resistant to sagging and you will achieve the best finish by painting a thicker coat. For best results use a quality fine-tipped synthetic bristled paint brush (e.g. Farrow & Ball paint brush). Load the brush well and apply a generous first coat. Brushing first in a vertical direction then in a horizontal direction until an even coating has been applied. Finish by 'laying off' the paint in one direction using light pressure, with the brush held at an angle of approximately 30°. Do not "overwork" the paint or attempt to brush it out in thin even coats as you would a traditional solvent borne paint as this may create excess brush marks. Allow to dry completely (for a minimum of 4 hours) before applying a second coat following the same technique as before. When painting doors or cabinetry, it's important to lay off (paint your final strokes) in the direction of the grain, finishing the brush stroke at the visible carpentry joints for a flawless finish.

How to Apply Paint to Trim by Roller:

Stir thoroughly before use. By 'trim' we mean: skirting boards, picture rails, dado rails, doors, door frames and architraves, interior window sills and window frames (providing they aren't plastic). This paint finish can also be applied using a medium pile woven polyester roller. This will provide a good finish with minimal stippling and is a quick method of application. However, where an optimum finish is required, we would recommend brush application using a fine-tipped, synthetic bristled brush (e.g. Farrow & Ball paint brush).

Masking:

Masking tapes are available in a range of tack levels. Always use a quality masking tape which is appropriate to the decorating project. Some masking tapes incorporate proprietary paint locking technology which can give a superior result.

Preparation for Spraying:

When spraying Farrow & Ball paints onto any given surface, it is important to remember that the resulting finish will only be as good as the surface you are applying it to. Most surfaces will need to be clean and degreased, prepared by surface filling, sanding and then suitably primed/undercoated. Flattening with finishing papers in between coats as required, to achieve a smooth flat surface before spraying your chosen Farrow & Ball finish. This process may need to be repeated several times to obtain a satisfactory surface, which is suitable for the type of finish that is desired. Farrow & Ball Full Gloss in particular, whilst providing an ultra-high sheen finish will highlight any surface imperfections which may otherwise not have been visible with lower sheen finishes.

Spray Settings:

Airless Spraying – Best results can be achieved with a typical set up of a 410 nozzle tip and 180 bar air injection pressure. Note that these are typical settings for most airless spray systems and some adjustment of the air pressure in relation to the nozzle tip will be required depending on the make and model of airless spray apparatus used. Depending on the apparatus used, the paint may need to be diluted with water by up to 5 - 10%. **HVLP Spraying** – Depending on the apparatus used, the paint may need to be diluted with water by up to 10 - 15%. Experiment with air control valve, material flow adjustment, fan size and spray pattern settings on a piece of cardboard or an inconspicuous area until a satisfactory finish is achieved. Apply several thin coats, allowing each coat to dry fully before applying the next one. A typical air pressure of 9.5 psi with a 1.5 mm needle/nozzle gives good results.

Health & Safety Advice:

Warning! Hazardous respirable droplets may be formed when sprayed. Do not breathe spray or mist. Keep out of reach of children. Ensure good ventilation during application and drying. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. If medical advice is needed, have product container or label at hand. **IF ON SKIN:** Wash with plenty of soap and water. Do not use solvent thinners or White Spirit. **IF IN EYES:** Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing. **IF SWALLOWED:** Call a doctor if you feel unwell. Safety data sheet available on request. When sanding any surface prior to painting, the creation of dust should be kept to a minimum and adequate & suitable Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) should be worn as a sensible precaution.

Lead Advice:

Special precautions should be taken during the preparation of old paint surfaces (especially those from pre-1990), as they may contain harmful lead. For further advice and guidance see coatings.org.uk/paintsafe.

Clean Up:

Remove as much product as possible using a brush and roller cleaning tool, then clean brushes and rollers in warm soapy water.

Storage Advice:

This product is water based and should be protected from frost and extreme temperatures. We recommend using within 6 months of purchase and are unable to accept responsibility for the deterioration of contents or packaging after this date. This product contains preservatives to protect from spoilage under normal conditions. To minimise contamination and provide maximum shelf life we recommend that the product is decanted into a clean paint kettle before use and all tools are thoroughly cleaned before and after each use. Repeated opening and use can increase the risk of microbial contamination; therefore we recommend keeping this to a minimum to maximise the shelf life of the product.

Environmental & Disposal Advice:

Do not empty into drains or watercourses. Dispose of contents/container to waste disposal site in accordance with local/national regulations. Contact the local Environmental Department for disposal instructions. Metal containers may be recycled.

Application Information:

Formulation: A water based primer & undercoat made using an acrylic binder.

Do not paint in temperatures below 10°C or in excessive heat above 30°C.

Coverage Rate (m²/l per coat): : Up to 13

Drying Time: : Dry in 2 hours.

Typical Recoat Time: : Recoat after 4 hours

Recommended Number of Coats: : 1

*Darker/stronger colours may require additional coats. Please note: The drying and Recoat times provided are based on applying paint in normal conditions - drying times may be longer in cooler and/or higher humidity environments. Darker colours may take longer to dry. Allow a minimum of 14 days before applying over solvent based coatings.

Density: : 1.2 - 1.4 g/cc

Wet Film Thickness: : 80 - 120 µm

Application Humidity: : < 80 % RH

VOC Content Information:

EU limit value for this product (cat. A/[h]): 30g/l (2010). This product contains max 2 g/l VOC.



Contact Us:

For advice on colours, paint finishes or wallpaper our customer services team is on hand to help you, just call +44 (0) 1202 876141, email sales@farrow-ball.com, or write to us at Farrow & Ball, Uddens Estate, Wimborne, Dorset, BH21 7NL, UK. Please note that calls may be recorded for training purposes. Imported in EU by Farrow & Ball, Kaiserstraße 25, Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland, +49 (0) 69 2424 6269.

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