

FARROW & BALL®

HANDCRAFTED PAINT AND WALLPAPER

PRODUCT ADVICE SHEET

Modern Emulsion

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.

Product Overview:

A durable and versatile matt finish, Modern Emulsion is washable and contains preservatives to protect it against mould, making it especially suited to bathrooms and kitchens as well as busy areas. It demonstrates excellent scrub and stain resistance, earning a Class 1 scrub rating. Washable & wipeable.

Not Suitable For:

Not for use in shower enclosures or direct water contact surfaces.

Available Tin Sizes: 2.5 Litre 5 Litre

For colour availability, please visit farrow-ball.com. 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.

Recommended Primer & Undercoats:

Farrow & Ball Wall & Ceiling Primer & Undercoat For use on interior walls & ceilings

Farrow & Ball Wood Primer & Undercoat For use on interior woodwork

Farrow & Ball Metal Primer & Undercoat For use on metal

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.

Before You Begin Painting:

To get the best out of Farrow & Ball finishes, it's important to make sure your surface is correctly prepared. Poor preparation is the main cause of most paint problems. Surfaces must be in a sound condition, clean, dry and free from any surface contamination, such as dirt, dust, grease, mould and loose/ friable material. The surface should also be lightly sanded to create a slight texture for better adhesion, and then any resulting dust wiped away.

Some walls and ceilings have a high pH, particularly those that have been lime rendered or had a silicate-based or mineral-based paint applied. These require a specialist paint finish as Farrow & Ball finishes are only suitable for surfaces with a pH of less than 10. If in doubt, test the pH of your surface by dampening it with water and using litmus paper. You should also give particular attention to kitchens, bathrooms and other areas of high humidity, as differences in temperature can cause condensation, which can lead to surface defects if the paint is not fully cured.

Surface Imperfections:

If you have any surface imperfections, no matter how small, they need to be removed before paint application, as the colour and sheen level will only highlight, imperfections, the higher the sheen level the more they are highlighted. Imperfections will look less apparent if a matt finish is applied, but they will still be there and noticeable in different light conditions. Where a Level 5 finish (the best possible finish) is needed, you should fill, flat and repaint several times. This means after the mist coat or first coat has been applied, you use an appropriate filler on imperfections or seams, lightly sand this down to smooth and then paint on a layer of topcoat. You should repeat this process again until no imperfections are visible. This is typically needed for plasterboard or high gloss finishes where lighting conditions can highlight any imperfections. Remember the final finishing coat due to its flow and levelling characteristics will only reflect the standard of the underlying prepared surface, if primers and undercoats are applied with imperfections they too will need to be flatted before finished topcoats are applied as once again, they will be highlighted.

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](https://www.coatings.org.uk/paintsafe).

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.

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.

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.

Previously Painted Walls Preparation:

Ensure all surfaces are sound, clean, dry and free from dirt, grease and other contamination. Apply one coat of Farrow & Ball Wall & Ceiling Primer & Undercoat, in the correct colour tone for your top coat (and allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats). Then follow with two coats of your chosen colour to promote adhesion and full colour depth.

New or Unpainted Plaster/Dry-Lined Surfaces (Modern Construction) Preparation:

Make sure the plaster is clean, dry and free of dust, then suitably primed and undercoated prior to painting. For best results and maximum depth of colour, dilute your Farrow & Ball topcoat with 25% water and use this as a mist coat, followed by two coats of your chosen topcoat. Please note: British Standard 6150 recommends a typical drying time for new plaster of 7 days for every 5mm thickness.

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.

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.

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.

Ferrous Metal Preparation:

Thoroughly clean and degrease new and previously painted metal surfaces. Remove any weak paint and rust back to bare metal. Apply two coats of Farrow & Ball Metal Primer & Undercoat, in the correct colour tone for your top coat, and 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. Cast Iron: We recommend that a specialist primer is applied to Cast Iron surfaces prior to painting as water-based primers may lead to flash rusting.

Non-Ferrous Metal Preparation:

Thoroughly clean and degrease new and previously painted metal surfaces. Remove any weak paint and lightly sand surface to improve adhesion of your primer & undercoat. Apply two coats of Farrow & Ball Metal 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.

Galvanised Metal Preparation:

Treat all surfaces with an Etch Primer or Mordant Solution, ensuring any excess product is removed before you begin painting. Apply two coats of Farrow & Ball Metal 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.

Radiator Preparation:

This product is suitable for painting conventional hot water filled radiators where the surface temperature does not exceed 60° C. We do not recommend using this product to paint steam filled radiators which operate at a much higher temperature. Ensure the radiator is turned off and has cooled before you begin painting it. Thoroughly clean and degrease new or previously painted radiator surfaces. Remove any weak paint and rust back to the original surface. Apply two coats of Farrow & Ball Metal 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. Cast Iron Radiators: We recommend that a specialist primer is applied to Cast Iron surfaces prior to painting as water-based primers may lead to flash rusting.

Painting Lining Wallpaper:

For unpainted Lining Paper apply one coat of diluted Farrow & Ball Wall & Ceiling Primer & Undercoat (maximum 10% water by volume), in the correct colour tone for your top coat before applying two full coats of your chosen colour. NB: The dilution rate will depend on the porosity of the surface. We recommend you test the level of dilution on a patch to determine the level of dilution required. If you do not want to apply a primer and undercoat, as an alternative, you can dilute the top coat with approximately 10% water and apply as a "mist" coat. Please note: When porous papers are not sufficiently prepared, difficulties in application, variation in sheen or uneven colour may occur.

Painting Over Interior Wall Fillers:

For best results always use a filler which has the same porosity and density as the surface which is being repaired. Fillers which have a different porosity or density may lead to visible differences in colour or tone. Follow the filler manufacturer's application instructions and drying times then apply a diluted coat (25%) of Farrow & Ball Wall & Ceiling Primer & Undercoat in the correct colour tone for your top coat (and allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats). Then follow with two coats of your chosen colour to promote adhesion and full colour depth. This product may not be compatible with highly alkaline/cement-based fillers. Please note that this product may not be compatible with sand-based filler. Wherever possible, we recommend using an alternative type of filler. However, if no alternative is available, ensure the filler is adequately sanded and free of all dust and contaminants before proceeding with the steps outlined above.

Using Interior Caulks & Sealants:

Where small gaps and cracks require filling or sealing, best results are achieved with an acrylic based decorators' caulk which is a water-based, flexible filler. Use the minimum of caulk necessary as a smaller bead will dry quicker and will be less prone to cracking. Follow the manufacturer's application instructions and drying times (typically 2 – 3 hours) before applying your chosen Farrow & Ball finish. Estate Eggshell, Full Gloss and Dead Flat – 2 coats may be applied directly (allowing a minimum of 4 hours drying time between coats). Estate Emulsion and Modern Emulsion – Apply an undiluted coat of Wall & Ceiling 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).

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.

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.

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.

How to Apply Paint to Walls by Brush:

Stir thoroughly before use. Ensure all surfaces are sound, clean, dry and free from dirt, grease and other contamination. Please note that flaking or peeling may occur if you paint over weak paint layers - to avoid this sand back any previous weak paint layers before you start painting. Where required apply Farrow & Ball Wall & Ceiling Primer & Undercoat to improve paint adhesion and promote depth of colour. Using a fine-tipped synthetic bristled brush, apply the paint in a vertical direction then spread the paint out evenly in a horizontal direction. On application of the final coat lay off the paint in a single direction to ensure that any brush marks and brush patterning effects (sometimes visible in certain lighting conditions) are minimised.

How to Apply Paint to Walls by Roller:

Stir thoroughly before use. Using a medium pile woven polyester roller, apply the paint in diagonal strokes to create either an 'M', 'W' or 'V' shape. Fill in and over the shape you have just painted to spread the paint evenly. Repeat this process, working in small sections. Always work from wet to dry areas, maintaining a wet edge to minimise roller marks. On application of the final coat lay off the paint in a single direction to ensure that any roller patterning effects (sometimes visible in certain lighting conditions) are minimised.

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.

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. Flatting 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. Make sure your spraying apparatus (including the gun and compressor unit) is appropriate for the size of the area being painted and your chosen finish. If dilution is required, keep this to the minimum possible according to the instructions of your apparatus and our suggested dilution ratios.

Spray Settings:

Airless Spraying – Best results can be achieved with a typical set up of a 510 nozzle tip and 100 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. We do not recommend HVLP spray application for large areas such as walls & ceilings.

Suggested Maximum Dilution Rates:

Bare dry skim plaster/dry lined walls, bare dry plaster board, patch filled plaster = 25% water (1 part water : 3 parts paint). NB: The dilution rate will depend on the porosity of the surface, so we recommend testing a patch. You can do this by splashing some clean water onto the surface and see how much has sunk in after a minute. Dilute the topcoat (of your chosen colour) with around 25% water and apply as a mist coat. Please note: When porous plasters are not sufficiently prepared, difficulties in application, cracking, drying, variation in sheen or uneven colour may occur.

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. Remove the masking tape while the paint is still slightly wet by pulling gently and slowly at an angle of 45°. If the masking tape is left on too long then trimming along the edge with a sharp blade may be required.

Other Product Applications:

If you wish to use Farrow & Ball products for any applications which are not featured here, please contact Customer Services for advice on +44 (0) 1202 876141 or email customer.services@farrow-ball.com. Please note that calls may be recorded for training purposes.

Picture Framing:

As Modern Emulsion has a matt finish, care should be taken when painting darker shades of colour. Always keep a wet edge while painting as losing the wet edge during application can lead to a common decorating problem known as “Flashing” (a halo effect where two edges of paint meet).

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.

Water Contact:

To extend the service life of this finish, standing surface water should not be allowed to pool on horizontal surfaces.

Environmental & Disposal Advice:

Do not flush paint down the drain, including when cleaning painting tools. Dispose of contents/container to comply with local regulations.

Clean Up:

Remove as much product as possible from brushes or rollers before cleaning.

Cleaning Surface Stains:

When cleaning, wipe gently with a soft damp microfibre cloth or sponge, keeping the area you work over to a minimum. Some cleaning solutions may mark the surface so be sure to test on an inconspicuous area before use and do not use bleach-based cleaning products. More stubborn stains may require treatment with decorator's cleaning wipes or cleaning spray. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Surface scuffs and marks can sometimes appear more visible on darker colours – but these can be easily wiped away with a damp microfibre cloth. Staining can be minimised if you use an absorbent tissue or cloth to remove as much of the stain as possible, as quickly as you can – not allowing time for the stain to penetrate the surface.

Cleaning:

Modern Emulsion is washable, wipeable & stain resistant. Wipe gently with a soft damp cloth or sponge. Some cleaning solutions may mark the surface. Test on an inconspicuous area before use. Do not use bleach-based cleaning products. Allow at least 14 days before cleaning to allow the paint film to fully cure.

Advice for Repairing Damage and Touching In:

To achieve the best results, we recommend applying a coat of paint over the entire wall or walls, using the same batch of paint you originally carried the work out with. This best practice will avoid any noticeable variation in colour or finish. If your paintwork becomes damaged or marked, you may need to repaint. If you do choose to touch-in to repair damage, the following recommendations will help you achieve the optimum finish.

1. Always aim to use the same batch of paint. If you use a different batch, although we control colour to tight specifications, you may observe slight colour and sheen variations. If you are unable to use the same batch of paint we recommend that you apply a single coat of a different paint batch to an entire wall as any slight variations will be much less noticeable when observing from wall to wall.
2. Always use the same preparation techniques when you make any repairs as you used when you originally painted the wall. It may not always be possible to achieve a perfectly consistent finish – if for example you have used filler which has a different texture and absorbency to the rest of the wall, this may cause a slightly patchy finish.
3. Always use the same application tool and method as when you originally painted this wall. Ensure that the edges of the touched in paint are blended in “feathered” to make the transition between old and new paint areas less noticeable.
4. Over time the colour of the paint, whether on the wall or in the tin, may slightly alter. Therefore the newer the paintwork is, the better the finish you will achieve by touching-in.

Please note that when touching in the darker the colour and higher the sheen the more difficult it will be to achieve a uniform finish compared to lighter coloured, lower sheen paints.

Technical Information:

Formulation: A water based paint made using an acrylic binder. Contains a wide spectrum preservative to protect surfaces against algal and fungal attack.

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

Coverage Rate (m²/l per coat): Up to 12

Drying Time: Dry in 2 hours.

Typical Recoat Time: Recoat after 4 hours

Sheen Level: 7 %

Recommended Number of Coats: 2*

*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.

Curing Time: Please note that some darker paint colours will take up to 14 days to achieve full hardness, strength and durability.

Density: 1.2 - 1.4 g/cc

Wet Film Thickness: 80 - 120 µm

Application Humidity: < 80 % RH

Substrate Moisture Content: Plaster Walls & Ceilings = < 0.5 % : Interior Wood = < 15 %

Substrate pH: Up to 10

Wet Abrasion Class: 1

VOC Content Information:

EU limit value for this product (cat. A/[a]): 30g/l (2010). This product contains max 1 g/l VOC.



Water-vapour transmission rate (Permeability) according to DIN EN ISO 7783-2 (sd [m]):

0.380 (Class II, limit >0.14 <1.4). This is the resistance of the paint film to water vapour expressed as the equivalent thickness of air in metres. The lower the sd value the more breathable the paint film. Paint breathability is class rated, from Class I to Class III. Class II in this instance denotes a medium level of breathability.

Liquid water permeability according to DIN EN 1062-3 (w24 [kg/m2√24h]):

0.07 (Class III, limit <0.1). This is the volume of water absorbed into a 1m2 area through the paint surface within a 24 hour period. The lower the w24 value, the more waterproof the paint film. Paint water absorption is class rated, from Class I to Class III. Class III in this instance denotes the highest waterproof rating. We are pleased to confirm that Farrow & Ball Modern Emulsion is rated - Class III (Low).

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.

Disclaimer:

The information given in these specification sheets and technical advice - whether verbal, in writing or by way of trials - is for guidance and is given in good faith but without warranty, since skill of application and site conditions are beyond our control. For further information please contact our Customer Services Department. We can accept no liability for the performance of the products arising out of such use, beyond the value of the goods delivered by us. This does not affect your statutory rights.

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