

FARROW & BALL®

HANDCRAFTED PAINT AND WALLPAPER

PRODUCT ADVICE SHEET

Metal 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.

Product Overview:

A rust inhibiting primer for all bare ferrous metal surfaces, our Metal Primer & Undercoat is designed to create a smooth foundation on gates, railings, furniture, radiators and metal downpipes before using Exterior Eggshell, Estate® Eggshell, Full Gloss or Dead Flat®. Stir thoroughly before use.

Not Suitable For:

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.

Available Tin Sizes: 750 ml

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.

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.

For interior metal, follow the advice given below for ferrous, non-ferrous, galvanised and radiator preparation. For cast iron, we recommend that a specialist primer is applied prior to painting as water-based primers may lead to flash rusting.

For exterior metal, follow the advice given below for ferrous, non-ferrous, galvanised and radiator preparation. For cast iron, we recommend that a specialist primer (usually solvent based) is applied prior to painting as water-based primers may lead to flash rusting. For exterior ferrous metal in more severe environments, such as coastal areas, consider using a specialist metal primer.

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.

Health & Safety Advice:

Contains trizinc bis(orthophosphate). Toxic to aquatic life with lasting effects. Keep out of reach of children. Ensure good ventilation during application and drying. If medical advice is needed, have product container or label at hand. Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing. 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. 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.

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.

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.

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. 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:

For best results this product should be applied by brush or airless spray. Do not thin. Best results can be achieved with a typical set up of a 410 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.

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.

Over Coating Pale Colours with Dark Colours:

When painting a dark colour over a pale colour for exterior use, we recommend removing as much of the previous coating as possible for a long lasting finish.

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.

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 flush paint down the drain, including when cleaning painting tools. Dispose of contents/container to comply with local regulations.

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.

Clean Up:

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

Technical Information:

Formulation: A water based primer & undercoat made using a copolymer binder system.

Application Temperature: Do not paint in temperatures below 10°C or in excessive heat above 30°C. Avoid painting in direct sunlight. Avoid applying outdoors if there is a likelihood of rain. For best results apply early in the day, allowing the product time to dry before the evening (when condensation can occur). This product should be applied in accordance with Annex C of BS 6150: Code of practice for painting of buildings.

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

Drying Time: Dry in 2 hours.

Typical Recoat Time: Recoat after 4 hours

Recommended Number of Coats: 2*

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: 100 - 140 µm

Application Humidity: < 80 % RH

VOC Content Information:

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



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

0.02 (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 Estate® Eggshell is rated - Class III (Low).

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

0.470 (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.

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.

Issue Date: 23/07/2025