

Helpful Holiday Hints

A Professional-Looking Paint Job: It's In The Preparation

(NAPSA)—Holiday entertaining is right around the corner, and a new coat of paint on the living room and dining room walls is one of the least expensive ways to give your home a whole new look before company arrives.

Paint professionals offer these tips for a great-looking paint job:

- The key to a professional looking paint job is in the preparation. That includes filling and fixing the nail holes, cracks and divots in your walls. To begin, you need the right tools and materials: a putty knife, spackling paste, self-adhesive backing material, fine (100-grit) sandpaper, and in some cases a sanding block and utility knife. In addition, companies that make wall repair products, like DAP, now offer wall repair patch kits that include most of the tools and materials you'll need.

- High-quality products make for a high-quality finish. This is true even of spackling paste. Inexpensive spackling will flash paint and shrink or crack when dry, ruining an otherwise perfect paint job. So spend the extra money to get a high-quality spackling, such as DAP's Crackshot® spackling paste.

- Thoroughly clean the surface of the repair site, getting rid of any loose paint, wallpaper, loose dry-wall, dust or dirt. For nail holes, cracks and small divots, use the putty knife to fill the area with spackling, smooth and let dry. When dry, check for any shrinkage and fill again if needed. Once dry, lightly sand the repaired area to make it level with the surrounding area. For larger holes in dry wall, cut self-adhesive backing material to cover the hole, place on the hole and apply spackling paste.

- Always make sure that the spackling is completely dry before you paint. Painting on wet spackle usually means you'll have to reap-



It's important to prepare a wall before painting, with the help of spackle and caulk.

ply spackling and repaint. One way to avoid this problem is with DAP's DryDex® dry time indicator spackling paste. It goes on pink and dries white, taking the guesswork out of when to paint.

- A really good finish to a room usually involves some caulking. Caulking the cracks between floor molding and wall or ceiling molding and wall completes the wall preparation and quickly eliminates drafts and unsightly gaps. For this, use a good acrylic latex caulk that can be painted. If you want the beauty of the surface to shine through without painting, DAP has new AlexPlus® Crystal Clear caulk that seals gaps and dries crystal clear.

Whatever you are looking to paint this fall to get ready for company, be sure and take the steps to clean and prepare all surfaces. Even the professionals take from two to four days to properly prepare, prime and paint your average room.

For more help with your wall repair questions, you can call DAP seven days a week at 1-888-DAP-TIPS (1-888-327-8477) or go to www.dap.com.