

Decorator's Notebook

Decorating With Style And Ease

(NAPSA)—Tired of the same old, bland look of your home? Looking to liven and brighten it up, both inside and out? Grab some brushes, paint and painters' tape, and get ready to spruce up the trim on the kitchen cabinets, brighten the windows in the living room and add some pizzazz to your bedroom walls. No need to hire a decorator when you can easily "design" your own rooms with no muss and no fuss!

Here are some helpful tips on giving your home a "paint" makeover:

- Determine the amount of area you'll be painting. Measure the length and width of the room and multiply the two numbers to give you a rough estimate of the square footage to be painted.

- When choosing paints, don't be afraid of color. Select some paint chips and hold them up to the area(s) you want to paint. Keep in mind that colors look more saturated when they're on the walls.

- Determine how many gallons you will need to buy. Base that amount on the number you got when you measured the area to be painted.

- Clear out all the furniture in the room or area that will be painted. If some pieces are too big and cumbersome to be moved, carefully cover everything with a painters' tarp. Regular sheets will suffice in place of a painters' tarp.

- Always mask the areas being painted with the proper painters' tape, such as Scotch Brand Blue painters' tape from 3M. This will reduce rework, surface damage and save time. Blue tapes have lower adhesion levels than traditional tan masking tapes. They can remain on the surface for extended periods of time and still remove cleanly.

- Remove all electrical switch plates and receptacle switch



With the help of painters' tape, you can paint yourself a new home with style and ease.

plates, including television outlets and phone jacks. Make certain to mask the exposed sockets with painters' tape.

- Use a drywall compound to repair holes and smooth out rough areas. If you need to patch a crack, cover it with a fiberglass mesh first, then apply several thin coats of a drywall compound to prevent the crack from resurfacing.

- Always be sure to wear protective eyewear, such as goggles and/or a face mask. Remember to properly ventilate the room, as the fumes from the paints can be especially irritating.

- Paint the trim before painting anything else and remember to paint from the top down, making sure the paint has been well stirred. You might want to re-stir the paint periodically to keep it well mixed.

- Avoid painting in the direct sunlight and use an ultraviolet-resistant painters' tape. Paint the west and south sides in the morning, and the east and north sides in the afternoon. This will make the painting process more comfortable and prevent the paint from drying too quickly.

- Nylon and polyester bristle brushes work better with latex paints. Natural bristles work better with oil-based paints.