Crackle

The dramatic appearance of crackle takes on the characteristics of aged metal patina because each unique application produces random splitting and blistering that result in interesting multilayer depth. Sophisticated. Bold. Adventurous. Great for a fireplace surround or a powder room.

Time Required:
For an average room with 400 sq. ft. of wall space, it will take you approximately 12 total hours over 3 to 4 days.

Before You Begin:
You’ll find a variety of color combinations for this technique in the Faux Impressions™ store display. Once you narrow down your options, Sherwin-Williams® recommends that you create a sample board to finalize your color selection and practice your technique before tackling an entire wall.

Additional Support:
Watch a step-by-step video of these application techniques at sherwin-williams.com/faux.
How to create a Crackle finish.

**Step 1** 
**Knapsack Color Corder:** Simply mix or a Sherwin-Williams color coordinated on a palette with a 70% color and 30% glaze ratio on the sample boards. The mixture should be both strong and smooth. Store the mixture in a separate plastic container. (Diagram 2B)

**Step 2** 
**Coat with Base Color:** Using a medium-speed mixer, mix 2 parts of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint in your base coat color, following the label directions for recommended cover (3/8” nap) and 2 parts of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint (glaze color). Stir the contents to create a uniform solution. This mixture will cover approximately 350–400 square feet. Work from top to bottom and across the wall, slightly overlapping adjacent areas. Do not re-wet an area once you have completed your initial glazing. Some sagging and dripping of the polyurethane will enhance the appearance of your finish, but heavy, pronounced drips may prove to be too dramatic of an effect once glazed. Allow to dry overnight. (Diagram 3)

**Step 3** 
**Roll on Glaze:** The following procedure is explained with a 6” roller frame and a 9” roller frame. For a thin coat, using your 9” premium 3/8” nap roller — again to reduce the appearance of texture, you may use a brush to cut into corners and around trim, but while the paint is still wet, immediately blend it into the body of the wall with a 6” premium 3/8” nap roller. The following procedure should be completed using a 6¼” roller frame. The procedure calls for two 6¼” rollers, 9” premium 3/8” nap rollers, 6” microfiber ½” nap rollers and 9” microfiber ½” nap rollers. Set the room up for completion by glassing. (Diagram 4)

**Step 4** 
**Cover with Metallic:** Apply a thin, even coat of Faux Impressions™ Metallic. Use 2 parts of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint in your base coat color, following the label directions for recommended cover (3/8” nap) and 1 part of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint (glaze color). Stir the contents to create a uniform solution. This mixture will cover approximately 150–200 square feet. (Diagram 5)

**Step 5** 
**Sponge on Polyurethane:** After Step 4, apply a thin, even coat of Faux Impressions™ Latex Matte Glaze to the moistened sea sponge mitt or a sponge dries out, you may go back over any areas to lighten the glaze appearance. (Diagram 5B)

**Step 6** 
Apply a thin, even coat of Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze over the entire surface using your 6” premium 3/8” nap roller. Moisten one sponge and dip it into the polyurethane. Press and slide. Cover an area within comfortable reach of your newly personalized space. (Diagram 6B)

**General Preparation**
Clear the area of all decorative items and prepare all surfaces prior to applying any products. Clean and prepare all surfaces prior to applying any products. Clean and prepare all surfaces prior to applying any products. Clean and prepare all surfaces prior to applying any products. Clean and prepare all surfaces prior to applying any products.
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Step 1. Spray Base Color: Apply a base coat of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint to the entire wall. The base coat will need to be at least one gallon. After the base coat is dry, apply a second coat using a 6" contractor series roller. 3/8" nap. Apply evenly using a sweeping motion. (Diagram 1)

Step 2. Coat with Crackle: Roll a thin, even coat of Cityscape Crackle over the entire surface using your 6" microfiber roller — again to reduce the appearance of brush marks. After allowing the base coat to dry completely, apply the Faux Impressions™ Metallic. Use a 9" microfiber ½” nap roller using a curving motion in a random, overlapping pattern. (Diagram 2)

Step 3. Roll on Glaze: The following glaze mixture can be stored in a mixing container and used repeatedly. Stir the contents to create a uniform solution. This mixture will cover 3/8” to 1/2” by using a random circular action similar to applying a varnish to a car. Reload the glazing mitt or sponge often, and blend the areas as you move along the wall. (Diagram 3)

Step 4. Sponge on Polyurethane:errs 1 and 4 hours. After the polyurethane is dry, apply additional coats if needed. Using the Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze and Waterborne Polyurethane Gloss, using a 9" roller frame, roll the polyurethane over the dried Faux Impressions™ Lacquer to desired effect. Allow to dry between coats to the touch. At this point, you are ready to apply Minwax® Polycrylic® Waterborne Polyurethane Gloss. Waiting longer than 4 hours to apply polyurethane will reduce the crackle effect. (Diagram 4B)
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Step 1  
**Wet Base Coat Color** 
Apply two coats of a Duration Home™ interior latex matte in your base coat color. Follow label directions for recommended coverage and recoat times. Matte finish is required for proper results.

Step 2  
**Coat with Crackle** 
After the last coat of base coat is dry, apply the Faux Impressions™ Metallic. Use a 6¼” roller frame to apply a thin, even coat of the Crackle. You may use a 6” microfiber roller to apply the Crackle over smaller sections, or a 9” microfiber roller to apply the Crackle over larger areas. After applying the Crackle, immediately blend it into the body of the wall with a 6” premium 3⁄8” nap roller. Moistened sea sponges may be used to create variation in the texture of the Crackle. Do not re-wet an area once you have completed your application. Some sagging and dripping of the polyurethane will enhance the appearance of your finish, but heavy, pronounced drips may prove to be too dramatic of an effect once glazed. Allow to dry overnight.

Step 3  
Roll on Crackle: The following diagram (diagram 4B) indicates how to traverse each of the four steps. Use a large, rectangular cellulose sponge. Coat the flat side of the sponge with Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze (glaze color). Stir the contents to create a uniform solution. This mixture will cover approximately 350– 400 square feet. Pour 8 ounces of Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze and 8 ounces of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint in your base coat color, following the label directions for recommended coverage and recoat times. Matte finish is required for proper results. Mix Decorative Glaze:

Step 4  
**Sponge on Polyurethane** 
Sponge on Polyurethane (Diagram 5B). As the polyurethane is dry to the touch, gently remove the low-tack tape. Clean any tools or equipment you are using for the polyurethane application by rubbing a dry sponge against your tools. This will help reduce the appearance of your finish, but heavy, pronounced drips may prove to be too dramatic of an effect once glazed. Allow to dry overnight.

Step 5A  
**Additional Glaze** 
Sand or spot-sand and basecoat color. Once dry to the touch, gently remove the low-tack tape. Clean any tools or equipment you are using for the glaze application by rubbing a dry sponge against your tools. This will help reduce the appearance of your finish, but heavy, pronounced drips may prove to be too dramatic of an effect once glazed. Allow to dry overnight.

Step 5B  
**Overcoat** 
Apply a second coat of the polyurethane to the exterior and any trim with a wide, rectangular sponge. Clean the area and prepare all surfaces prior to applying any products. 

**Supplies:**
- 1 gallon of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint (glaze color)
- 1 gallon of Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze
- One roll of 2” low-tack/safe-release tape
- 3 large sea sponges
- 2” low-tack/safe-release tape
- Two 6” Contractor Series roller frames
- Two 9” Contractor Series roller frames
- Nylon/polyester brush
- Paint tray
- Assorted drop cloths and rags
- Latex gloves
- Three quarts of Faux Impressions
- Three quarts of Minwax
- Symphony by Purdy
- Two large sea sponges
- Two 6” Contractor Series roller frames
- 6¼” roller frame
- Paint tray
- One quart of Duration Home® Interior Latex Matte paint (base coat color)
- 1 gallon of Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze
- Clear Polyurethane
- Latex Matte paint (base coat color)
- 6” microfiber roller
- 6¼” roller frame
- 9” microfiber roller
- Waterborne Polyurethane Gloss
- Low-tack/safe-release tape
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Step 1: Mix Decorative Glaze. Begin by mixing Crackle decorative glaze according to instructions on the container. (diagram 1)

Step 2: Coat with Base Coat. Use a brush to apply a base coat (glaze color) over the entire wall surface. Allow to dry for 24 hours. (diagram 2)

Step 3: Roll on Glaze. Roll the following glaze mixture over the entire base coated surface using a 6” and 9” microfiber roller. (diagram 3)

Step 4: Sponge on Polyurethane. Delineate a 1, 4, and 9 foot area. Apply a thin coat of Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze to the designated area, following the label directions for recommended coverage and reveal more of the texture back over any areas to lighten the glaze. Once dry to the touch, gently remove the excess material, leaving a thin even film. (diagram 4A)

Step 5A: Mix Decorative Glaze. Begin by mixing Crackle decorative glaze according to instructions on the container. (diagram 5A)

Step 5B: Sponge on Polyurethane. Delineate a 1, 4, and 9 foot area. Apply a thin coat of Faux Impressions™ Latex Glaze to the designated area, following the label directions for recommended coverage and reveal more of the texture back over any areas to lighten the glaze. Once dry to the touch, gently remove the excess material, leaving a thin even film. (diagram 5B)