

HOW TO SELECT YOUR PAINT SHEEN



General Tips

Gloss, semi-gloss, satin, matte and flat are the most popular choices in paint finishes. The right choice can come down to the area of your home that you're painting. Here are some basic sheen descriptions along with our recommendations on matching a sheen to a particular room in your home.

Gloss Finish

The most light-reflective of any paint sheen, gloss paint has an extremely hard and shiny finish. Its rich, smooth luster makes it easily washable, often just wiping clean. Use this type of finish if you want to highlight a particular element of your room.

Recommended for: Wood trim, cabinets and doors.

Semi-Gloss Finish

A moderately reflective sheen, semi-gloss paint is also very durable and great for areas that need to be cleaned frequently.

Recommended for: Kitchens, bathrooms, closet doors, trim and utility areas.

Satin Finish

A satin finish paint has just a slight shine so it offers clean-ability while at the same time hiding minor imperfections in your wall's surface. Ideal for high-traffic areas most likely to attract nicks, scuff marks and stains.

Recommended for: Kids' bedrooms, kitchens, family rooms, foyers and hallways.

Matte and Flat Finish

Matte and flat finish paints soak up light rather than reflecting it, so they are your best choices for hiding surface imperfections in your walls. Typically, a matte finish cannot offer the same washability as glossier sheens, but Sherwin-Williams Emerald and Duration Home Interior paints come in a specially-engineered matte finish that easily washes clean, similar to gloss and semi-gloss paint.

Recommended for: Adult bedrooms and other areas that won't get roughed up by kids. Also good for uneven or textured walls.

Have more questions? Go to your neighborhood Sherwin-Williams store, walk in, and ask an expert ... in that order.