

## **Painting Tips for Bastion Paint Metallic Paints**

This document contains painting tips and techniques that are specifically applicable to our water-based metallic paints. It does not contain information on preparation and priming of surfaces that must be done prior to the application of the metallic paint. Always prepare and prime as you would for any other water-based Acrylic/PVA paint. If in doubt read our document called "Preparation and Priming", contact us or ask at your local hardware store.

There are many challenges involved in formulating glossy water-based paints (even if not metallic). One of the main challenges is that water-based paints generally are quite thick (have quite high viscosity) which causes brush and roller marks to show up in glossy finishes and makes some spray applications difficult. The need to be thick (have high viscosity) increases when large particle metallic pigments are contained in the paint as thicker paint is required to prevent the metallic particles from settling.

Through the use of some innovative and modern chemistry we have manufactured pure acrylic metallic paints that are stable in storage, have excellent coverage, don't drip or run but still flow well so as not to leave significant brush or roller marks.

### **Using a brush or roller**

You can paint with our Metallic Paints in the same way as with any normal water-based wall paint although a few points will assist you to achieve a perfect finish.

There are two key rules to remember when painting with glossy paints:

- Keep a wet edge. Rather than explain this you can Google "Keeping a wet edge" and many experienced painters will be lined up to show you videos of what this means and how to achieve it. Basically if you go over paint that has partly dried with a brush or roller then that area looks different in the end result. To assist here are some things to remember:
  - Do not paint in direct sunlight or surfaces that are hot as the paint will dry too quickly.
  - Do not paint directly onto porous surfaces as absorption of the paint will make it dry too quickly. Apply a primer or undercoat to porous surfaces first.
  - Start at one corner so that you only move in one direction. This results in you only having one edge to keep wet which is far simpler than having multiple edges.
  - For large surfaces such as feature walls we suggest painting with two people. One does the cutting-in on top and bottom and keeps just ahead of the painter using the roller. This means the painter with the roller can make continual progress and the roller can overlap the cut-in areas when they are still wet. There is very little chance that the edge will dry out too much.
- As far as possible only move the brush or roller up and down (or left and right). This is because the metallic particles are aligned by the brush or roller movement so haphazard roller movements may lead to the appearance of shade variation in the dry paint. Our formulations have advanced chemistry to optimally orientate the metallic particles but good painting technique is still advised.

If painting surfaces with significant texture or profile then just use the paint as is with a good quality soft brush.

If painting a normal exterior walls then use a normal good quality brush and roller and remember to keep a wet edge.

If painting a very flat smooth surfaces, such as a kitchen cupboard door, with a brush or roller you can take steps to reduce the tendency for brush and roller marks. You can dilute the paint with 10% water (100ml water into 1 litre paint) or even better, add our Acrylic Flow Control Medium to the paint.

## **Spray Painting our Metallic Paints**

Some thinning of the paint will be required but never add excessive amount of water to paint as the final dry strength may be compromised. We suggest that you never exceed 20% water (200ml water added to 1 litre of paint).

Our **Acrylic Airbrush Medium** is specifically formulated to significantly thin water-based paint (increase flow / decrease viscosity) for spray applications without the drawbacks of adding water.

Due to the large particle size of some of the metallic pigments that we use, you may need to remove the in-line filter of your spray equipment. We take great care to formulate without lumps so this is almost always successful.

### **Using an Airless Spray Gun**

Airless spray systems are perfect for water-based acrylic/PVA paints. The paint is pumped to the nozzle and the equipment can handle high viscosity (thick) paints. This equipment is relatively expensive and usually only owned by serious painters. You will easily get excellent results.

### **HPLV Spray Guns (High Pressure Low Volume)**

These spray guns connect to a compressor and operate at high pressure (5 bar for example). The air volume used is low hence the term HPLV. Dilute our metallic paint with 14% water (140ml water into 1 litre paint) and you will get a good result. Although even after dilution the paint may still feel thicker than you normally spray with, the paint is designed to work as the viscosity breaks down dramatically in the nozzle allowing good atomisation of the paint. It is advisable to use a nozzle with diameter of around 1.8mm. Smaller nozzles used for automotive type finishes (0.6 - 1.2mm) may not work.

### **HVLP Spray Guns (High Volume Low Pressure)**

These spray guns may connect to a compressor but often have their own air pressure generating system. They operate at low air pressure (0.1 - 0.2 bar for example) and use a high volume of air.

20% dilution with water (200ml water into 1 litre paint) can work but the paint may still be too thick to be forced in a sufficient stream to the nozzle. If you have problems they will probably related to insufficient pressure to feed the gun rather than the behaviour of the paint in the nozzle.

Rather than over diluting the paint with excess water consider using our Acrylic Airbrush Medium to thin the paint. We got good results with a 2.5mm nozzle.

## **Airbrushing**

Paint used in Airbrushing must have a very high flow (must be very thin). It is essential to thin the paint with our Acrylic Airbrush Medium. Some water can also be added if required but don't exceed 20% water.

## **Some general points about the suitability of our Metallic Paints for spraying**

Our metallic paints have been optimised for spraying with air spray systems in numerous ways. Excellent filtration of our paint during manufacture ensures spray gun nozzles don't block. You will not get air bubble problems in the sprayed paint film as fast acting air removal chemicals have been optimised in the paint formulation. The thixotropic rheology of the paint ensures it atomises well when leaving the nozzle even if it arrives at the nozzle a little thick.

Let us know about your painting and spraying experience, we will appreciate hearing for you:  
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