

How to Paint Bare Wood

Painting bare wood requires making a few decisions prior to applying the coats, such as the preferred tools for the job to the kind of paint which will be used.

Although applying paint on bare wood is an option, painting on top of primer will require fewer coats of paint and result in a finer finished product.

Also choose what base level paint will be used for the wood. For whites and light colors, choose a lower base level paint. The darker the color, the higher the base level paint. A base paint will allow the coats of paint to achieve a more vibrant and full color. If ever in doubt, don't hesitate to ask a paint expert at the store for professional suggestions for choosing a proper primer or base paint.



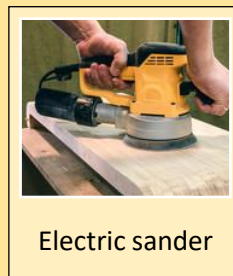
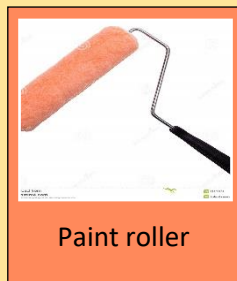
Safety steps and precautions

- Always wear a mask.
 - Paint and primer are toxic and may be harmful to inhale.
 - When sanding, a mask will prevent dust particles from entering the lungs.
- Cover electrical outlets
 - Use tape or other masking materials to prevent fumes or dust from entering outlets.
- Properly Store excess paint and primer
 - Place cans with unused paint and primer in a ventilated area at room temperature out of reach of children and pets.

Steps for painting bare wood

First Step: Choose your tools

- Decide on a preferred paint applicator: paint brush or paint roller.
- Decide on a preferred sanding tool: sandpaper, sanding block, or electric sander.



Step 2: Protect all surfaces

- Cover the area where painting will be completed.
 - Use a drop cloth, plastic, paper, or any material that will protect the area from unwanted primer or paint. See *Figures 1 and 2*.
 - Proper protection will prevent messes and allow for easier clean-up.
- Be sure to follow the safety procedures to prevent breathing in harmful fumes and chemicals.
- When finished, dispose of any coverings in a proper receptacle to avoid any human or environmental harm.



FIGURE 1 DROP CLOTH UNDER OBJECT



FIGURE 2 SIMPLE PLASTIC MAY BE USED



Step 3: Sand the surface

- Apply slight pressure to the wood with desired sanding tool.
- Move sanding tool back and forth until surface is smooth. See *Figure 3*.
- Repeat process on each side of the wood that will be painted.



FIGURE 3 MOVE TOOL BACK AND FORTH

Step 4: Apply the primer

- Apply primer along the entire surface of the wood with forwards and backwards motion. See *Figure 4*.
 - Whether using a brush or roller, ensure primer is applied evenly.
 - Apply extra primer to each area that contains knots. See *Figure 5*.
- Allow primer to dry.
- Once dry, lightly sand surface to smooth the grain of the wood.
- Apply a minimum of two coats of primer.
- Repeat drying and sanding process for each coat of primer.



FIGURE 4 APPLY PRIMER WITH A BACK-AND-FORTH



FIGURE 5 KNOTS ARE DARKER THAN THE WOOD; THEY MAY REQUIRE MULTIPLE COATS

Final Step: Apply the paint

- Apply paint to the dried primer.
- Use up and down or forward and backward paint strokes with the brush/roller. See *Figure 6* and *Figure 7*.
- Paint two to three coats to reach the desired effect and let those beautiful hues take form on the wood.



FIGURE 6

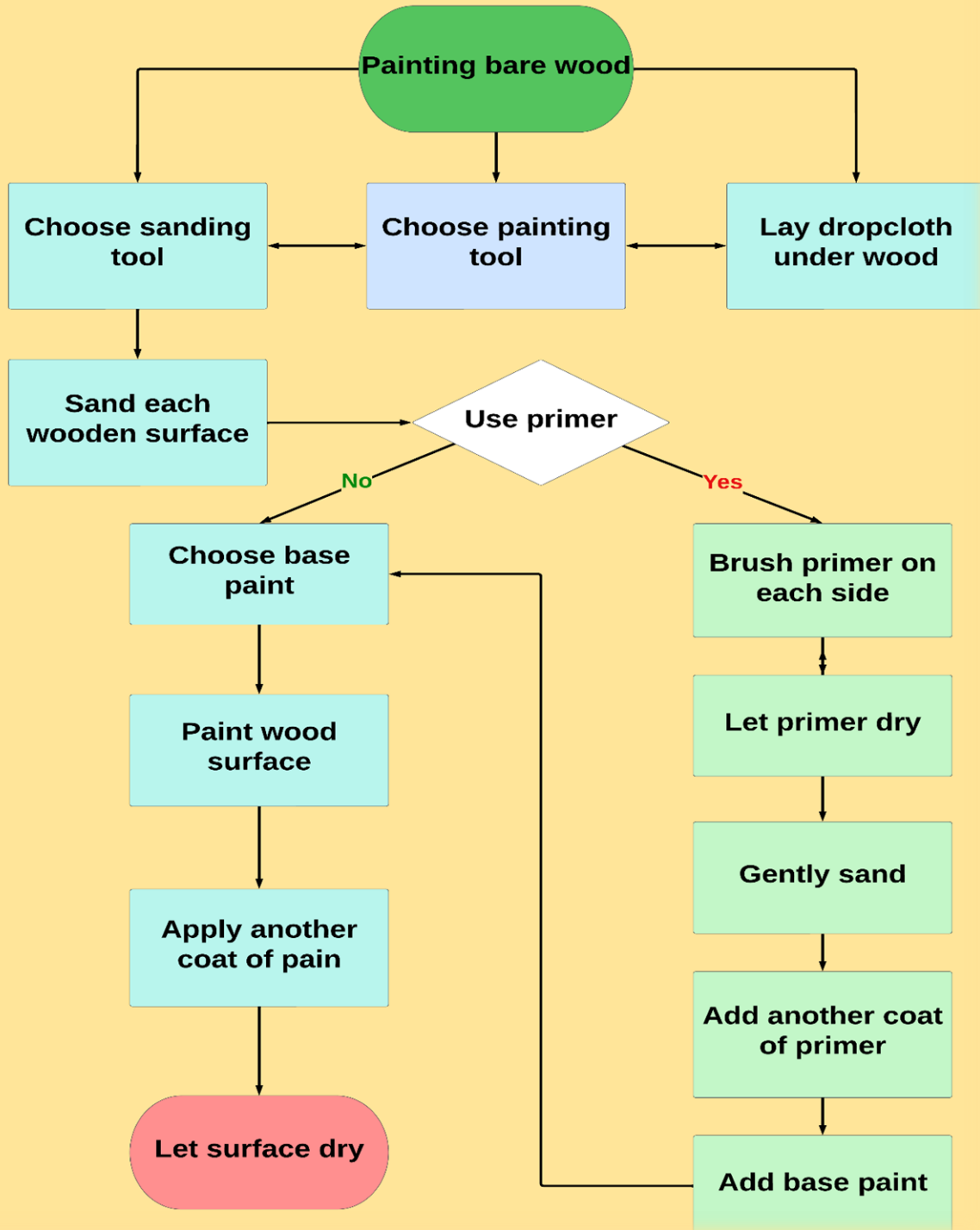


FIGURE 7

*images from Bing and Dreamstime.com



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