Painting of Plasterboard & Back Rolling.

AS/NZS 2311:2017

Master Painters New Zealand Association recommends that when painting new plaster board, a three-coat system should apply as per the Industry Standard. Selecting the right product and finish for the job at hand is one of the decisions a professional painting contractor has to make to obtain a quality finish and maximize the life of the surface coating for their clients.

- The first coat should be a coat applied with a 10mm wool nap roller, the preferred method.
- If the first coat is to be applied by spray application than backrolling[1] must occur whilst the paint film is still wet.
- The two finish coats should be applied as normal with backrolling[1] when spray applications have been used.
- Two coat systems on raw plaster board do not allow the paint product used to reach its full potential both in performance and colour depth. If a two-coat system is to be used we recommend a manufactures warranty be obtained.
- Touch ups on low sheen or satin finishes are also not recommended and the whole area should be recoated to maximize the paint finish.
- If coverage has still not been achieved, extra coats should be charged out as a variation.
- The recommended viewing distance for paint work is 1.5 to 2 m which must be performed in a well-lit area.

Back rolling is the process of following along behind the spay gun with a short to medium nap roller. This procedure is highly recommended when painting plasterboard surfaces. It has three direct benefits: -

- The rolling action assists in laying down (flattening) the 'nap' that can be raised both by the plasterer when sanding off set joints - and by the painter through the interaction of the spray with any loose paper fibres on the surface.
- The rolling action assists in working the paint into the textured paper surface of plasterboard.
- The roller imparts a surface texture to the freshly applied paint. The texture is helpful in disguising small variations in flatness which can occur - particularly over setting lines at the joints between the boards. It also disguises small variations in surface texture between the board and setting compound surfaces.
- The manufacturers of plasterboard have advocated the process of back rolling since the use of spray guns became common.
- Painters who do not back roll following spray paint application, face the possibility of being accused of not complying with recommended painting practice over plasterboard.
- The recommended system when painting plasterboard is: - a recommended sealer followed by two full coats of premium water-based paint. As a minimum, the first (sealer) coat should be back rolled.
- The back rolling of subsequent coats enhances texture.

All preparation and painting works should be in accordance with AS/NZS 2311:2017 Guide to the painting of buildings

Master Painters NZ Association Po Box 40 335 Upper Hutt 5140 – PH 04 472 5870

Email masterpainters@masterpainters.nz www.masterpainters.co.nz