

'Green' Paint Fact Sheet

Prepared by Eco Painting

Two types of eco-friendly paints: Low-to no-VOC **latex** and **natural** paints.

1. Low- to zero-VOC latex paints (\$35-\$40/gallon, average 350 sqft/gallon)

Advantages:

- Durable
- Elastic finish
- Easy to clean
- Suitable for kitchens and bathrooms
- Many colors available (> 1,400)
- Cheapest of all eco-friendly paints

Disadvantages:

- Impenetrable
- Dries and cracks with moisture and time (10-15 years)
- Contains other toxic chemicals – solvents, glysterine silica, etc. and can give light headedness feeling
- Low chemical smell
- Discharge of left-over harmful to groundwater/environment

2. Natural Paints. Two types: Clays and milk paints.

2.1. Clays (plaster or paint) (\$40-\$45/gallon, average 200-300 sqft/gallon)

Advantages:

- 99% natural ingredients
- Little odor, smells earthy and clean
- Healthy – ideal for chemically sensitive, people with allergies and infants
- Natural and soothing pigments
- Interact with rooms' climate (i.e. 'breathe' – expand & contract with changes in temperatures and absorb humidity & odors) and hence very durable – 40 years and plus
- Ideal for Faux Finishes and textures!
- Minimal adverse impact of discharge/left-over to groundwater/environment

Disadvantages:

- Porous finish needs sealing with natural wax to protect from stains and liquids
- Less colors available than latex paints (approximately 100)
- Some preservatives include biocides
- Plasters come powder form and require mixing with water

2.2. Milk Paint (\$30-65/gallon, average 200-250 sqft/gallon)

Advantages:

- 100% natural
- Little odor, smells earthy and clean
- Highly durable – can last for centuries if applied correctly
- Great for Faux Finishes!
- Minimal adverse impact of discharge/left-over to groundwater/environment

Disadvantages:

- Comes mostly in powder form and requires mixing with water
- Once exposed to air and water needs to be consumed within 12 hours
- Porous finish needs sealing with natural wax to protect from stains and liquids
- Least colors available (approximately 30-40)
- Most expensive of all eco friendly paints

For more info on paints, colors, textures/finishes & maintenance, visit www.ecointhehouse.com