



## FURNITURE

**Product Name:** Old Fashioned Milk Paint

**Manufacturer:**  
The Milk Paint Company  
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Tooele, Utah 84074

Contact for more information.  
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**Product Description:**

Our Old-Fashioned Milk Paint is a re-creation of the ancient Milk Paint formula used for centuries before the sale of commercially made paints. It is an authentic finish for antique furniture restoration and reproduction. It comes in durable, fade resistant, rich matte, colors. Our Old Fashioned Milk Paint is made from elements that pre-date the use of petrochemicals. It is biodegradable, non-toxic, and odor-free when dry. Our Milk Paint is preferred by custom furniture builders, interior designers, artists, craftsmen, do-it-yourselfers, and those who are sensitive to the need to protect the environment.

**APPLICATIONS:**

Our Milk Paint is used to achieve an authentic “old look” for furniture, floors, cupboards, woodwork, walls, signs, toys, and stenciling. It penetrates all clean, porous (unfinished) surfaces. Mix with our EXTRA-BOND\*, it will also adhere to just about any nonporous surface. With a clear topcoat to seal the painted surface, it can be used for furniture subject to fingerprints and spills. For surfaces expected to receive heavier wear, we recommend using a heavy-duty topcoat. An oil or solvent-based sealer is recommended for kitchen cabinets as acrylics may not protect against certain kitchen oils.



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## **MILK PAINT DIRECTIONS:**

***Important: Read this entire Direction Sheet before using this product!***

**Porous Surfaces:** Milk paint, like all water paints, adheres best to a porous surface, such as bare wood or masonry.

**Nonporous Surfaces:** Our Extra-Bond additive will help the milk paint adhere to MOST clean, sound nonporous surfaces.

1. **Mix:** Measure equal amounts of **WARM** water and powder into separate containers. The one-pint package contains about 1-1/2 cups of powder, and when mixed with 1-1/2 cups of warm water it will make about 1 pint of paint.
2. **Apply:** Apply with a dry brush, roller, or spray gun. Natural bristle brushes are fine, but foam brushes may require less effort and leave fewer brush marks. Milk paint is somewhat streaky in color. This is normal. Spray strained, thinned (thinner than when brushing), paint for an even color. Spray at about 30 lbs. pressure. Adjust pressure and nozzle to get a good paint film, not dry and not runny. With a little practice you should be able to spray a Windsor chair in about 3 or 4 minutes. Remember always wear proper protection when spraying any paint. The second best is foam roller application.
3. **Clean up:** Clean all tools with water and a Scotch-brite pad.

### **MIXING TIPS**

**Small Amounts:** When mixing small containers of paint by hand it is easiest to make a paste of the powder with some of the water and stir until smooth. Use a rubber spatula or paint stick. Gradually add more water until the desired consistency is reached.

***First add water to the container, then the powder. This reduces clumping, making it easier to mix.***

**Large Amounts:** It is easier to mix equal amounts of water and powder together using a wire paint paddle on a drill at lowest speed. Taking care not to mix too fast which creates foam.

**Timing:** Mix thoroughly for 2-3 minutes. Let stand for 10-15 minutes.

**Strain:** Sometimes powder lumps don't fully dissolve. Strain the mixed paint through a paper mesh paint funnel, a piece of cheesecloth, or a piece of nylon stocking.

**Stir:** Stir paint every 10 minutes while using, add more water if needed if the paint thickens.

**Best Used Fresh:** Milk paint is best mixed up fresh. Refrigerate leftover paint in a sealed container. It stores best if mixed on the thinner side. Add a thin layer of water to the top of the paint mixture. Being true to the original formulas we do not add unnatural preservatives or extenders. It can thicken and gel up over time. Only mix what you plan to use that day. Store unused powder indefinitely in an airtight container.



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## **(A) POROUS SURFACES PAINTING PROCEDURES**

*New wood or other porous surfaces.*

**Note:** No primer is necessary – the first coat acts as its own primer on most softwoods and open-grained hardwoods. However, close-grained hardwoods such as maple or birch will require an initial coat of milk paint with Extra-Bond added.

**Clean:** Wipe down the item with a damp rag to remove any dust and to pre-dampen the surface.

**Seal:** Seal knots, (optional) with shellac (apply first coat of milk paint while the shellac is still tacky) OR paint knots with a mixture of prepared milk paint with Extra-Bond. Add the Extra-Bond into the first coat if desired.

**First Coat:** Paint the entire item with a coat of milk paint.

**Second Coat:** After an hour or more, if you wish, rub down the first coat lightly with a Scotch-Brite pad, fine sandpaper, or non-oiled steel wool. Apply a second coat if desired.

**Finish:** If you like the look and the rough texture, your masterpiece is finished!!

**Optional:** After a couple of hours, or overnight, you may wish to rub down to a satin-smooth finish and/or “distress” the finish. You can rub down the surface (above) or distress. Be sure to try any of these techniques on a test piece.

**Prevent Water Spotting:** For a washable surface, seal the paint. Without a sealer the paint is fine, but it will water spot and readily absorb dirt. Any sealer will work over milk paint. Penetrating oils such as linseed, tung, or blended oils like Watco Danish Oil will deepen the color considerably. Wax works well too. An oil or solvent based sealer may be the best option for kitchen cabinets. On floors use a sealer meant for floors.

**Extra-Bond:** To use the Extra-Bond, first mix the milk paint with water according to the directions in “Simple to Use” mixing section, then add an equal amount of Extra-Bond, and stir the two liquids together. You may actually use as little as one part Extra-Bond to two parts of milk paint, but better adhesion may be achieved using equal parts. After the first coat is completely dry, paint a second coat of straight milk paint. (Extra-Bond is not necessary in the second coat.)

**Test Surface:** For previously painted surfaces it is very important to also test the layers of paint for adhesion to each other. This ensures that the old paint won’t peel off and take the new paint with it. Cut a one inch long “X” in the old paint with a razor blade. Test in several areas. Apply a strip of Scotch tape/masking tape over the “X”. Rub the tape on firmly. Pull it off quickly. If the old paint comes off with the tape, you have poor adhesion.



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**Remove Old Paint:** For poor adhesion, remove the old paint by stripping, sanding, or scraping. If you don't remove it, the new paint may lift off the old paint.

**\*\*WARNING!** If you scrape, sand, or remove old paint, you may release lead dust. LEAD IS TOXIC. EXPOSURE TO LEAD DUST CAN CAUSE SERIOUS ILLNESS, SUCH AS BRAIN DAMAGE, ESPECIALLY IN CHILDREN. PREGNANT WOMEN SHOULD AVOID EXPOSURE. Wear a NIOSH approved respirator to control lead exposure. Clean up carefully with a HEPA vacuum and a wet mop. Before you start, find out how to protect yourself and your family by contacting the National Lead Information Hotline at 1-880-424-LEAD or log on to [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead).

**Neutralize:** Surfaces that have been chemically stripped of finish, neutralize any residual chemicals by wiping the surface with a 50/50 vinegar and water solution prior to re-painting.

### (B) EXTERIOR USE

We do not recommend milk paint for exterior use. It often water spots (except for white paint). However, multiple coats of a clear exterior finish will seal the paint and prevent water spotting. Traditionally, milk paint was waterproofed with the addition of an oil, such as linseed, poppy or peanut oil. We do not recommend this as the oil may cause problems with mildew or brittleness of the paint film.

### (C) MILK PAINT COLORS

Colors vary slightly from batch to batch due to minor variations in the natural earth materials. If you wish to change the hues of the colors, start with Snow White and add colors to suit your taste. Add Pitch Black or Lexington Green to deepen the tone. For example: 6 tbsp. of Pitch Black to one pint (6 oz. bag) of Lexington Green makes a very accurate early Windsor chair dark green. Any of our colors may be mixed to create new colors. The best way to develop your "ideal color" is to start with a paper cup and some measuring spoons. Mix your powders together first. Try a tablespoon of a major color and add teaspoons or even fractions of teaspoons of another color. Add a little water and mix well. The color will look darker when wet. Paint the sample on a piece of scrap wood or cardboard. Multiply your measurements and make up the needed quantity. If you are going to use a sealer over the paint, test check the final color.

Use translucent "Base" (no pigment) Milk Paint to create a color using "lime-proof" pigments.

### (D) DECORATIVE FINISHES/FAUX FINISHES

Decorative finishing, such as graining, marbledizing, sponging, crackling, etc. is an art and not a science. Therefore, mockups in situ are a must.



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### **(E) INGREDIENT QUALITY**

As in ancient times, our milk paint contains lime, milk protein, clays, and earth pigments. We use no lead, chemical preservatives, hydrocarbons, or petroleum derivatives. The other ingredients are inert materials. All our ingredients are food grade or pharmaceutical grade.

### **(F) ZERO TOXICITY**

Milk paint is non-toxic. When wet, it has a slight earthy milk odor which disappears in a few hours. The hydrated lime is highly alkaline, and naturally anti-bacterial. The alkalinity lowers when it catalyzes with the acidic milk protein. Inert when dry, it may still have anti-bacterial properties depending on the humidity in the area.

### **(G) SHELF LIFE**

Keep the paint powder sealed. Kept dry and air-tight, it lasts indefinitely. Exposed to air or dampness, the active lime becomes inert. When this happens, the paint won't mix properly. If applied, it will chalk.

### **(H) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

For technical assistance, telephone (435) 255-4556, during normal business hours, 9 – 5 MST, Monday through Wednesday, except on holidays.

### **(I) DISCLAIMER**

The use of our products is not under our direct supervision. We do not guarantee any results, even though the directions were followed.

Neither seller nor manufacturer shall be liable for any injury, loss, or damage, direct or consequential, arising out of the use of, or the inability to use the product.

The user determines the suitability of the product for intended use and user assumes all risk and liability whatsoever in connection therewith.



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## **ADVANTAGES:**

Produces an authentic Colonial or Shaker finish	Adheres to almost all clean, porous surfaces
Solvent Free	Matte Finish
Fast Drying	Non-Flammable
Odorless when dry	Longest lasting known paint
Environmentally safe, non-toxic, anti-bacterial	Deep rich permanent colors

## **PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS:**

<b>COLORS:</b> 32 colors + a translucent base	<b>STATE:</b> Dry Powder
<b>MIXING MEDIUM:</b> Warm Water	<b>VOC's:</b> None
<b>ODOR:</b> Wet-Faint milky odor Dry: Odorless	<b>DRY SHELF LIFE:</b> Sealed Indefinitely
<b>WET SHELF LIFE:</b> Seal and refrigerate, overnight	<b>ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY:</b> Bio-degradable
<b>THINNER:</b> Water	<b>CLEAN UP:</b> Soap and Water
<b>DRYING TIME:</b> Dry to the touch - 30 mins. Recoat in 2 hours. Dries and hardens over time.	<b>NON-FLAMMABLE</b> <b>NON-TOXIC</b>

## **AVAILABLE SIZES:**

One Pint	6 oz. powder plus water	35 square feet
One Quart	12 oz. powder plus water	75 square feet
One Gallon	48 oz. powder plus water	300 square feet