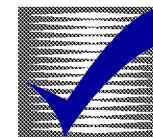




## HOW-TO BOOKLET #3035

# PAINT APPLIERS



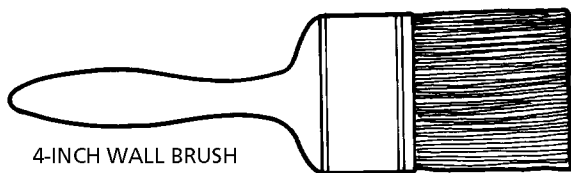
### TOOL & MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Brushes, Rollers (Covers, Frame, Tray), and/or Pad
- Brush Comb
- Brush Cleaner
- Roller Cleaner Device
- Aluminum Foil for Brush/Roller Storage

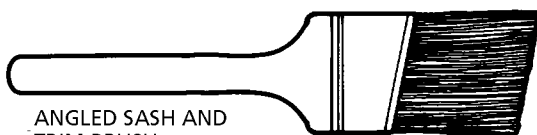
*Read This Entire How-To Booklet for Specific Tools and Materials Not Noted in The Basics Listed Above.*

Spreading paint and other coatings is easier these days, thanks to space-age materials and better research into differences in surfaces and differences in finishes. With the right application equipment, you'll find that finishes are easier to apply and the result will look better on the roughest to finest surfaces—concrete block to sanded wood.

In home center, paint, and hardware stores, you'll usually find a selection of application equipment to meet any requirement demanded by the surface or finish—interior or exterior—and by size of project. From large wall expanses to fine line furniture refinishing, there are pure and man-made bristle brushes; roller covers, frames and trays; polyfoam brushes, and paint pads. And, as a plus, many manufacturers now carefully package and label these products so you can readily make a selection with assurance of the right choice. To help you even more, this How-To Booklet will detail what equipment to use and how to use it.



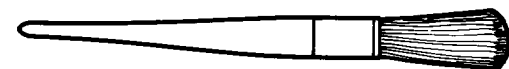
4-INCH WALL BRUSH



ANGLED SASH AND TRIM BRUSH



1-1/2 IN. TRIM BRUSH



ROUND SASH BRUSH



THROW-AWAY BRUSH

**Brush selection** includes these standards. You will have a choice in the store of pure-bristle or man-made bristle brushes. The pure-bristle brushes often are slightly more expensive than the others. For most jobs, you'll need a wall brush and a trim brush.

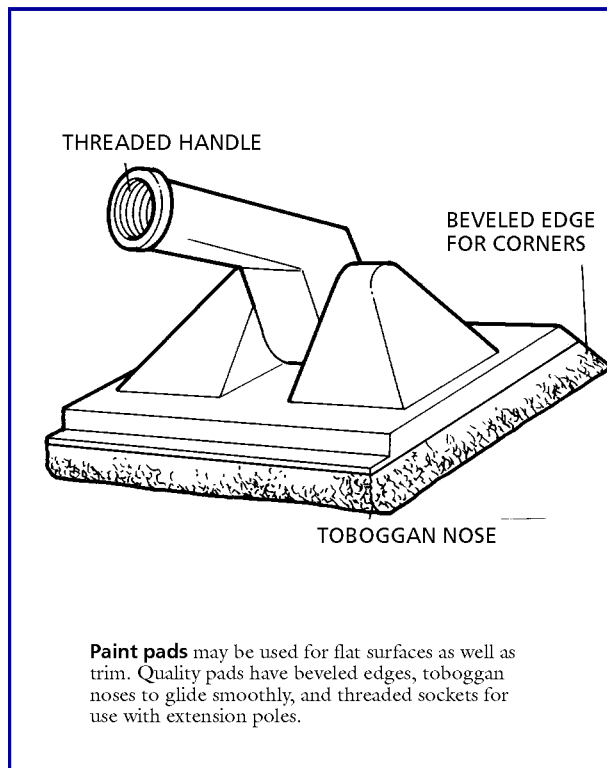
## THE BRUSH SELECTION

Paintbrushes are priced by quality. The better the quality, the more expensive the brush. This is where the project at hand should decide the expenditure you make. For example, you don't need to buy a fine quality brush to apply shellac or brushing lacquer touch-ups where the finish doesn't have to be absolutely perfect. An inexpensive throw-away brush, designed for 1-time use, is good enough. The cost of cleaning these brushes with solvent may be more than the brush is worth. On the other hand, if the project involves a fine finish coat over a smooth sanded surface, you may want to invest in a more costly nylon-polyester or pure bristle brush that will flow the finish on the surface effortlessly without marks.

**Brushes for large, flat surfaces.** If you're finishing smooth surfaces such as exterior siding, soffits, interior plaster and drywall, a 4-inch brush often is lightweight and small enough so that it can be stroked over the surface without much muscle strain. For large surfaces such as walls and ceilings, a 6 inch or even 8-inch brush (called a "flating" brush) will cover the surface faster. However, the brush is weighty and gets tiresome to swing.



**Paint brushes** and roller covers are often labeled as to size, quality, and finish usage. The packages can often be removed for close inspection of the product. Most do-it-yourselfers and many professionals use a combination of brushes and rollers to speed a painting job. You may want to try this, too.



If the surface is rough such as concrete or brick, a large size masonry brush is recommended. It has coarser bristles that won't wear down as fast as pure bristles of even the synthetic ones. Masonry brushes are sold in widths to 9 inches.

**Pure bristle brushes** are made from natural animal hair or hog bristle from China. Use these brushes in solvent-thinned finishes only. Do not use them in water-based finishes. Man-made bristle brushes include nylon and polyester synthetic bristles or filaments. These two filaments are sometimes mixed together to provide the features of both: Nylon has maximum abrasion resistance, snap, and medium resistance to heat and water; Polyester has maximum stiffness retention in water, hot weather, and solvents, and provides greater wear resistance than bristle.

Flags are the split ends of bristles. Hog hair bristles have natural flagging and taper. Man-made bristles are mechanically "flagged" and the filaments are tapered. In fact, the filaments are hollow. That's why after cleaning, the bristles continue to "leak" water, or solvent, tinged with the finish in which the brush has been used. Flagging reduces the drag on the brush and improves its finishing capabilities. The taper in a brush (thick at the ferrule, thinner at the tip) lets the paint flow naturally and uniformly off the brush and onto the surface. Chisel trim brushes have both sides of the tip end beveled to create a more precise, sharp painting edge.

**Varnish and enamel brushes.** You can use a wall brush to apply varnish and enamel, but brushes made for these finishes are best mainly because of size. Varnish and enamel brushes are from 2 to 3 inches wide. The 2 1/2 incher could be considered the multi-purpose brush. The wider brush is for larger surfaces while the smaller one lets you get into cramped quarters better and spread the finish smoother.

Keep these brushes strictly for use in varnish and enamel finishes. That is, don't use them in lacquer and other solvent-based finishes, which tend to "heel-up" the bristles at the ferrule and make them "inflexible."

**Trim brushes.** There are two types. One has bristles cut straight across and the other has bristles cut at a slight angle to the ferrule. The sharper pointed edge of the angular sash brush lets you do precise trimming or fine-line work. The brushhandle is generally long for pencil-grip control.

**Round trim brushes**, if you can find them for sale, are super window trim brushes. They often are overlooked because the shape suggests inefficiency. Not so!

In the trim brush category are artist brushes. The bristles range from pen tips to about 1-inch wide, and the size, as usual, should be matched to the project. If you're doing stencils, use a round stencil brush that is daubed on the stencil and surface. The trick to using this brush is to apply the stencil paint in thin coats as square (right angles) to the stencil as you can get. Don't brush the bristles across the stencil.

**Mitts and pad brush applicators.** If you are painting spindles or railings, and you can't use a spray outfit, consider a sheepskin paint mitt. The mitt does a remarkably good job, although it is very difficult to clean once the job is finished.

For shingles, shakes, screening, and most any surface, painting pads are easy to use, fast, and versatile. The pads can paint corners, cut-in and trim, as well as paint large areas. Some pad applicators are designed with guide wheels to aid in trimming. Still other pads are designed for rough surfaces and block filling. The tools may be used with extension poles and require some type of tray for loading such as a standard roller tray.

## BUYING A BRUSH

Many paintbrushes are labeled as to what they are and what types of finishes can be used with them. If the brush isn't in a package, this information sometimes is stamped on the handle of the brush, along with the type of bristle: pure or man-made.

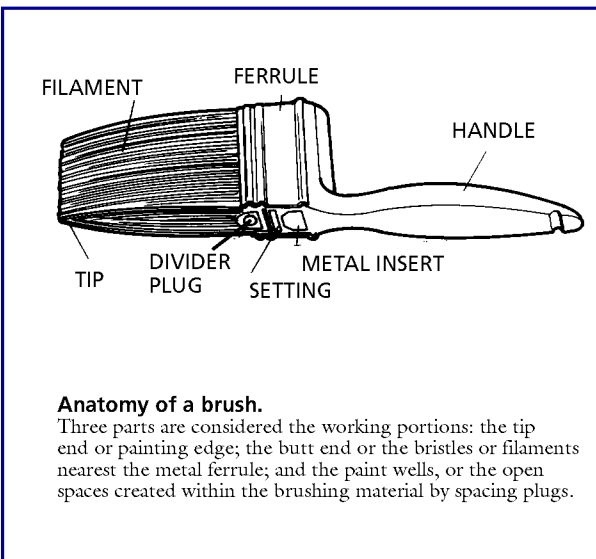
Quality paintbrushes have several parts: the handle, bristles or filaments, ferrule, divider plug, and metal insert. Packages for brushes often are designed so you can slip the brush out of the package for inspection. You also can reuse the package after working with the brush to keep bristles shaped. Before you buy, give brushes the test:

- 1 Check the handle and ferrule. The ferrule of a quality product will be attached to the handle with screws, small brads, or rivets. On lesser quality brushes, the ferrule may be slip-fitted onto the handle. After the brush is used a time or two, the ferrule may pull away from the handle and the brush will be unusable.

- 2 Smack the ferrule against the palm of your hand a couple of times. If the brush is not well-made, the ferrule will feel loose and chances are that a number of bristles will fall out of the ferrule.

- 3 Check the bristles. With your fingers, spread the bristles below the ferrule. They should "split" in half so you can look down into the base of the ferrule. Here you will see a divider plug which helps support the bristles in the ferrule. If the plug is a large one, the brush will be skimpy on bristles. The smaller the plug, the more bristles, which is ideal. A brush with few bristles will not hold an adequate paint "load" and paint in the brush will tend to drip past the ferrule and onto the handle.

- 4 Hold the brush by the handle. With your free hand bend the bristles back at right angles to the handle and let go of them. The bristles in a quality brush will spring back into position; bristles in an inexpensive brush will tend to stay in the bent position and then move back to the original position slowly. The spring-back is called "memory." Brushes with good memory retain their shape after repeated use.



### Anatomy of a brush.

Three parts are considered the working portions: the tip end or painting edge; the butt end or the bristles or filaments nearest the metal ferrule; and the paint wells, or the open spaces created within the brushing material by spacing plugs.

Not all painting projects require a quality brush and that's why manufacturers make lesser quality—and less expensive—ones. So fit the brush to the project.

## PAINT ROLLERS

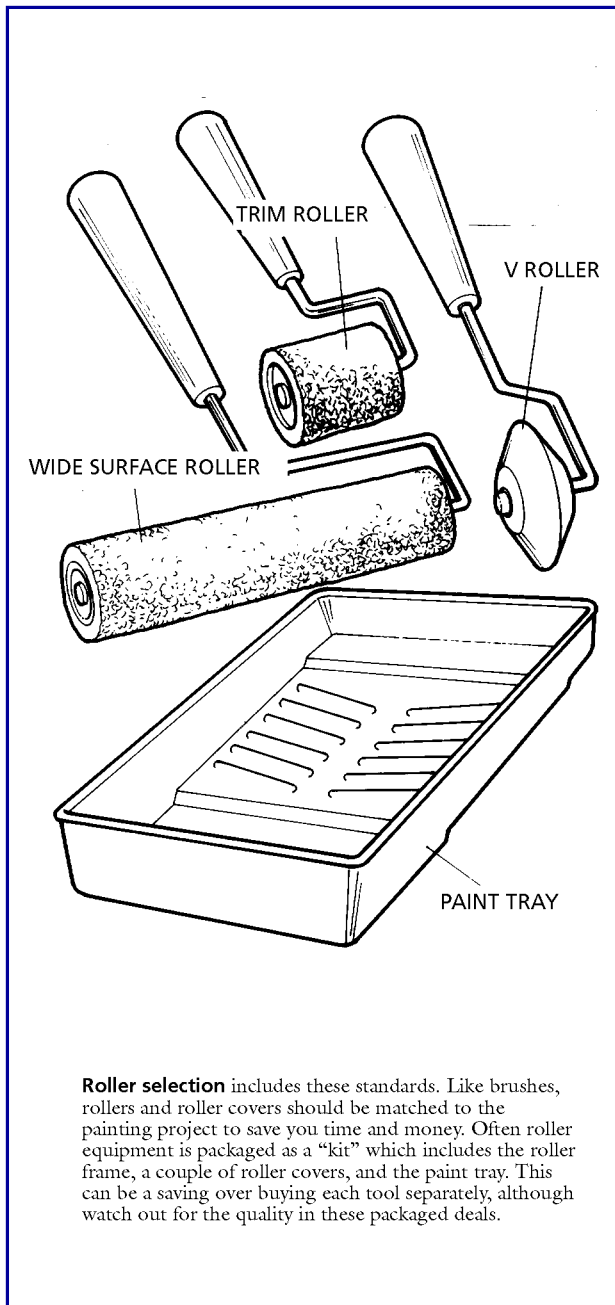
For spreading lots of paint fast, a 9-inch-wide paint roller outfit is an excellent buy. In addition to speed at low-cost, roller features include easy clean-up with water-based finishes and a variety of roller covers for different types of finishes such as enamel and varnish. Two disadvantages might be control and paint spray. Rollers are slightly more difficult to control than brushes; rollers emit a fine spray so surfaces or materials you don't want sprayed must be covered up.

Rollers have three parts: the cover; the frame over which the cover slips; and a handle. The best buy, in our view, is a birdcage or wire-constructed roller frame instead of a solid frame such as plastic. Either way, buy a frame that has a threaded socket for an extension pole so you can paint ceilings and high areas without a ladder.

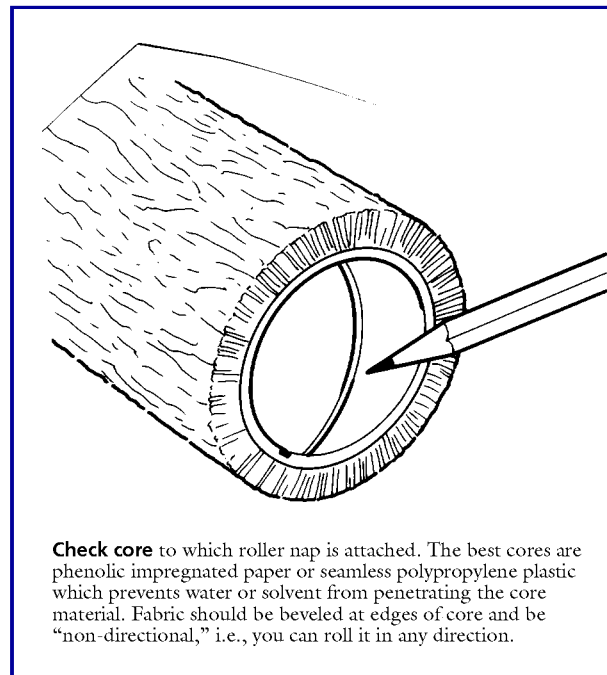
Many roller cover cores are made of phenolic impregnated paper. Phenolic resin is impervious to most cleaning agents, so covers with these cores can be cleaned and reused. The fabric over the core is important. Most fabrics are polyester, which perform well in paint pick-up and release. A quality cover has fabric which is "seamless" and the ends of the fabric are tapered back slightly. The taper prevents paint build-up on the edges. Paint build-up can streak and mar the fresh finish on a surface that you're painting.

Mohair is a specialty cover fabric. It is woven to prevent shedding when used with oil-based finishes such as high gloss enamels and polyurethane.

Nap size is commonly referred to as "pile height." It is actually a measurement of thickness of the fabric on the cover, and it can range from 1/8 inch up to 1-1/2 inch. The lower the nap size, the smoother the surface; the higher the nap size, the rougher the surface.



**Roller selection** includes these standards. Like brushes, rollers and roller covers should be matched to the painting project to save you time and money. Often roller equipment is packaged as a “kit” which includes the roller frame, a couple of roller covers, and the paint tray. This can be a saving over buying each tool separately, although watch out for the quality in these packaged deals.

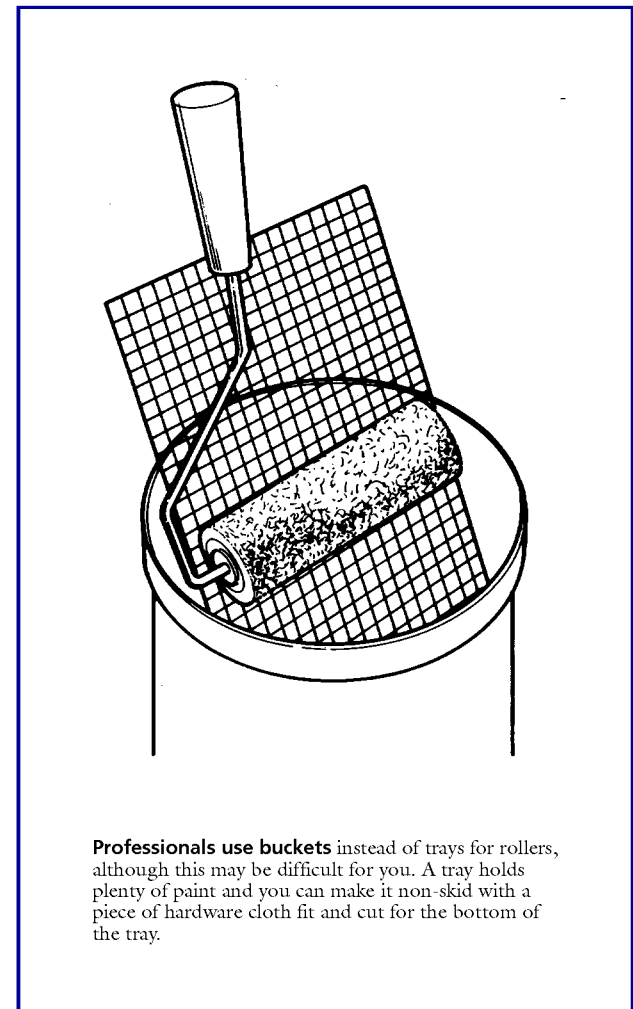


**Check core** to which roller nap is attached. The best cores are phenolic impregnated paper or seamless polypropylene plastic which prevents water or solvent from penetrating the core material. Fabric should be beveled at edges of core and be “non-directional,” i.e., you can roll it in any direction.

Many roller covers are packaged and labeled for various finishes and surfaces. Example: “For Oil Paint,” “For Latex Paint,” “For Smooth Surfaces,” “For Semi-Rough Surfaces.” You have only to match the cover to the finish you’ll be using and the surface you’ll be coating.

Rollers also come in various sizes. Standard for wall work and siding are 7 and 9-inch-wide rollers; the 7-incher may be easier for you to handle than the 9-inch, although the difference isn’t that significant. You can also buy specialty rollers to handle trim work.

**Trays and buckets.** To load a roller cover with paint, the cover has to be rolled in a paint tray or bucket. The professionals like the bucket better than the tray because the bucket doesn’t have to be replenished with paint so often. However, a bucket may be more difficult for a do-it-yourselfer to use.



**Professionals use buckets** instead of trays for rollers, although this may be difficult for you. A tray holds plenty of paint and you can make it non-skid with a piece of hardware cloth fit and cut for the bottom of the tray.

If your choice is a tray, we recommend one that has brackets to fit steps of a stepladder. Also the tray ought to have ridges or dimples in the bottom which help prevent the roller from skidding as it’s loaded. A good way to get more roller traction is with a piece of 1/4-inch hardware cloth cut to fit the dimensions of the bottom of the tray. The wire squares grip the roller cover better than the ridges or dimples.