



HOW-TO BOOKLET #3034

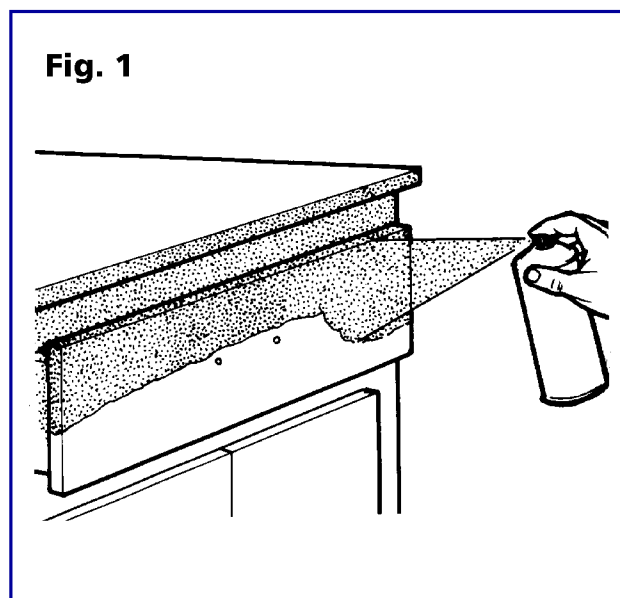
SPRAYING PAINT



TOOL & MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Pressurized Spray Can
- Spray Equipment
- Masking Tape/Dropcloths
- Paint/Thinners
- Mixing Buckets
- Spray Mask

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



For the homeowner/do-it-yourselfer there are several spray techniques to apply paint: a pressurized or aerosol type spray can; a compressed air unit that generates air to spray the paint and the air-less guns that flip the paint through the nozzle of a spray gun onto the surface to be painted.

Most spray equipment sold in home center stores and building material outlets, even the professional stuff, now has a competitive price that will fit almost any budget.

If your spray paint projects are small and few and far between, you should consider a spray can rather than a compressor unit. If you spray paint fairly often on small to medium-sized projects, one of the airless or diaphragm compressor outfits should be a consideration. If you are involved in lots of spray work, it is recommended that you buy a motor- or engine-driven compressor unit that will supply the paint gun with constant and even air pressure. This equipment sometimes can be rented.

SOME SPRAYING BASICS

How to spray paint from a can or gun is illustrated in this Booklet. However, before you get started with application, there are several basics that you should know.

Spray cans. To mix (stir-up) the paint in the can, you shake the can. You will hear a rattle inside the container as you flip it back-and-forth. The rattle comes from a small steel ball that is the “paint paddle” mixing the finish. If you don’t shake the container long enough, the paint will come out very thin; or the pressure in the can, the propellant, will fizzle out before all the finish in the can is utilized.

Always spray in a well-ventilated room. Cover anything that you don’t want painted with masking tape, newspaper, dropcloth. Wear a spray mask.

Spray guns. Air or airless types may be used for interior painting projects. However, the room must be very well ventilated and you must use a respirator to protect your lungs. We also suggest safety glasses. As with any spray project, cover anything that you don’t want painted. The overspray from spray guns is more pronounced than spray cans, so plenty of protection is necessary.

Outside spray painting has another specific set of problems. The number one drawback is overspray from the spray gun. The paint can float in the air for amazing distances and settle on passing or parked cars, on neighbor’s windows, porches, decks, roofs, and so on. Some communities even have laws against using spray equipment outdoors, so before you do any spraying, check out the codes.

Spray paint outside only on a windless day, and never spray around a corner or up over a roof unless the spray is blocked with a covering such as a piece of cardboard or dropcloth. To spray at angles, spray the surface nearest to the nozzle first. To spray inside corners, spray the adjoining surfaces first. The overspray will paint the corners. At outside corners, point the gun toward the house surface, not around the corner. For gutters, set the ladder high enough so you are shooting the paint downward onto the gutter surface.

Paint for spraying often must be specially mixed. Follow the directions on the paint container label.

Preparation of surfaces to be spray painted are exactly the same as for brush painting. Make sure that all peeling paint is removed from the surfaces and that the surfaces are free from grease and oil, and the surfaces are dry. The paint you apply to a surface (spray, brush, or roller) is only as good as the surface to which the paint is bonded. Make the base perfect.

SPRAY CAN PAINTING

Figure 1: So spray can cover edges, open drawers of cabinets being sprayed about 1/2-inch. Leave drawers open until the paint dries.

Figure 2: Turn chairs upside down. Do the legs and rungs first. Then turn the chair over and do the backs and seats.

Figure 3: If project is “open,” hold spray can at about 45-degrees—such as on this cane chair. This trick reduces paint thickness.

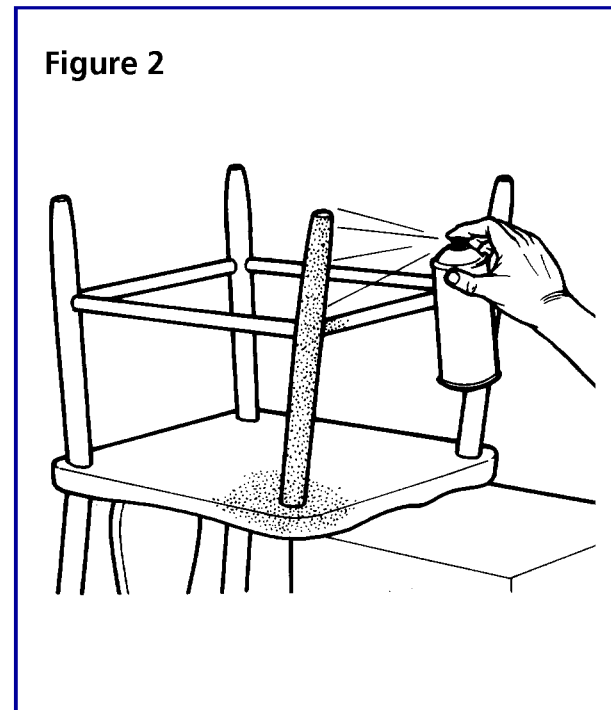


Figure 4: Pretest spray pattern. Hold can about 12-inch from surface to be painted. Move the can forward/backward for best pattern.

Figure 5: Move spray can from right to left. Go slightly past edges, keeping the can even and the same distance from the surface.

Figure 6: The next following spray patterns should overlap approximately 1/3rd.

Figure 7: Keep the spray nozzle as square to the surface being painted as possible to avoid sags and drips. To clear the paint nozzle, turn the can upside down and press the spray nozzle until no more paint comes from the container. If the spray nozzle becomes damaged, you can buy new nozzles very inexpensively at most stores that sell this type of spray can. If the hole in the nozzle becomes clogged with paint, you may be able to open it with a pin.

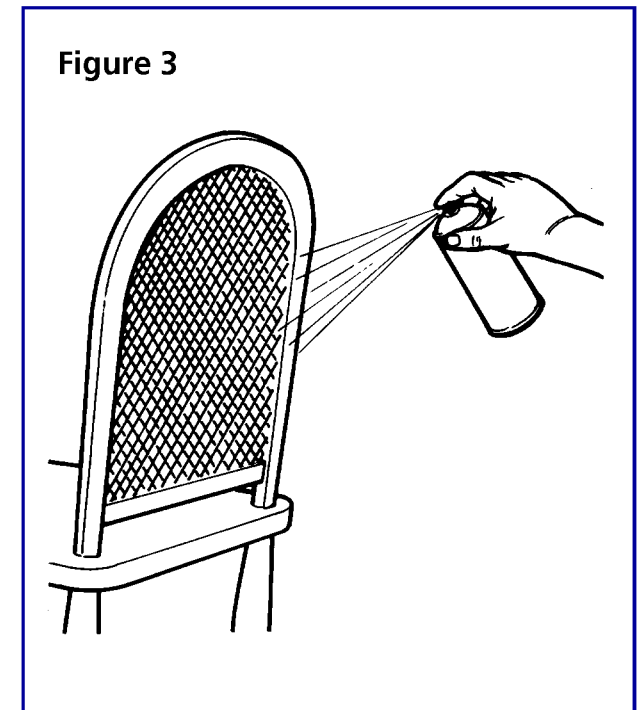


Figure 4

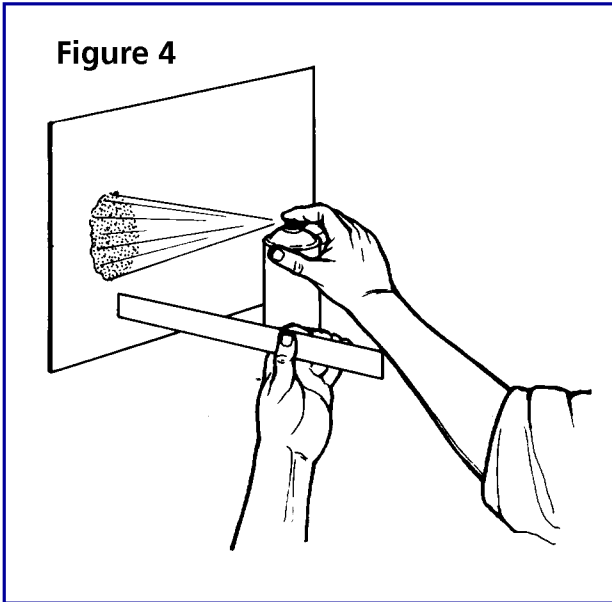


Figure 6

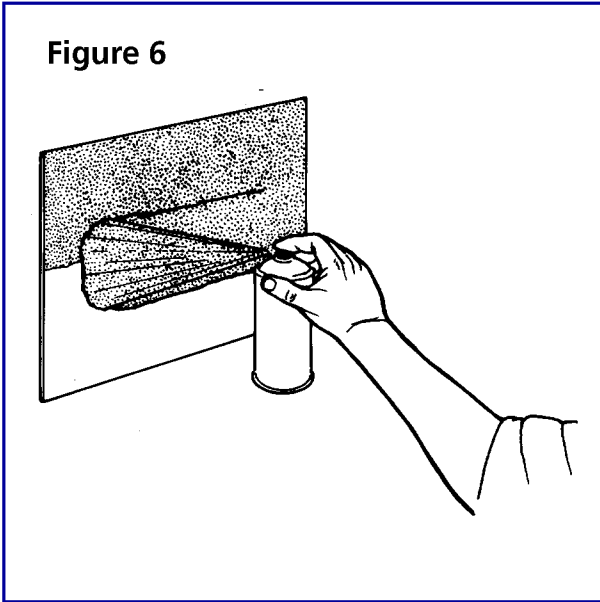


Figure 5

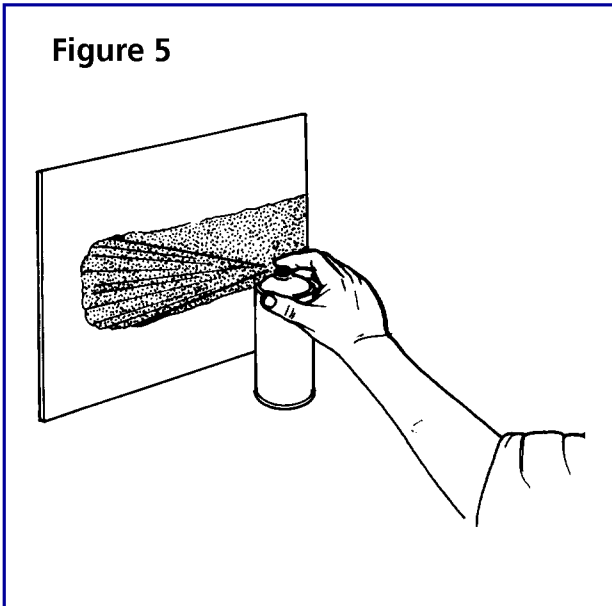
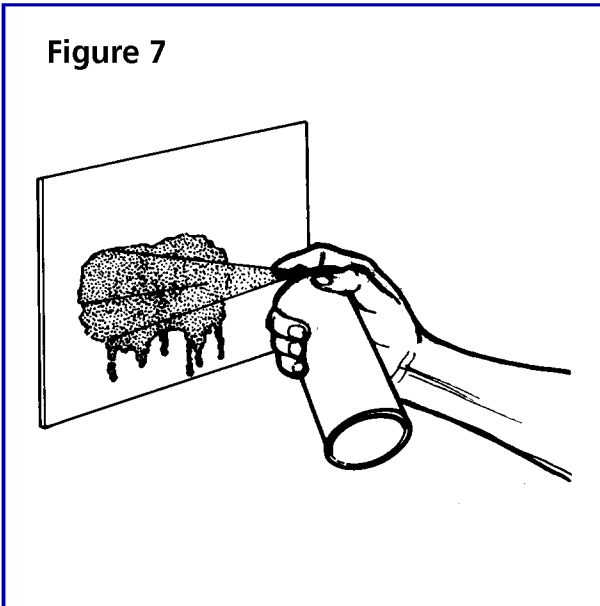


Figure 7



SPRAY GUN PAINTING

To spray paint with a gun, the spray gun must be in motion as it starts across the surface to be painted (see and follow the numbered drawings on the following page).

As you pull the trigger on some spray guns, the first projection will be air followed by paint. The trick is to feather the paint onto the surface as you start spraying the surface, and then to feather the paint off the surface as you complete the arc with your arm. Hold your wrist firmly so the spray gun always remains at right angles to the surface. The heaviest paint concentration will be in the center of the spray pattern and the edges of the pattern will feather out. As you go back and forth across the surface, you will have to lap these feathered edges so the paint will be the same thickness throughout.

Figure 8: Strain the paint, especially paint taken from a pre-used bucket, through a filter that you can buy at home center stores. The paint also should be thoroughly mixed and properly thinned so it flows on surfaces smoothly and evenly.

Figure 9: As you spray, keep the nozzle of the gun about 8 ins. away from the surface being painted. Try to keep the nozzle of the gun at a 90-degree angle to the vertical surface. Buying tip: test the balance of the gun/paint cup in your hand. Too much weight toward the nozzle can make spraying difficult.

Figure 10: Follow the spray pattern and overlap each stroke by about $1/3$ to $1/2$. But easy does it on the amount of paint you apply. It should be fairly thin—in strokes—and not piled up in one area so the paint runs and sags.

Figure 11: It's best to overlap or overspray a surface such as a corner, but it is recommended that you spray back toward the corner (outside) rather than flipping the spray out past the corner as mentioned in the Booklet text.

Figure 8

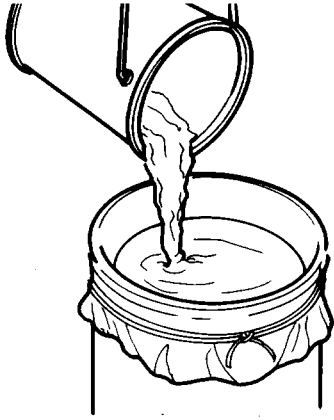


Figure 10

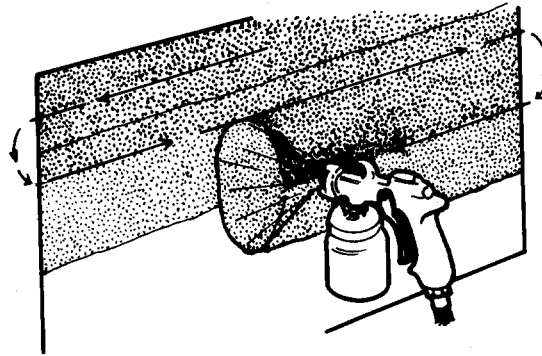


Figure 12: In both horizontal and vertical strokes, be sure to keep the spray gun as square to the surface as possible. By being square, the paint is distributed evenly onto the surface. The trick is all in the wrist. Keep the wrist firm from the start to the finish of the lap.

Figure 13: Never swing the spray gun in an arc, as this illustration shows. What happens here is that the center of the stroke on the surface will have too much paint while the ends of the stroke will have too little paint.

If the spray gun is attached to a paint feeder hose (as opposed to a paint cup arrangement), you will have to form a loop in the hose and hold it with your other hand in order to keep the nozzle of the gun at right angles. Don't try to support the gun AND hose with one hand.

Figure 9

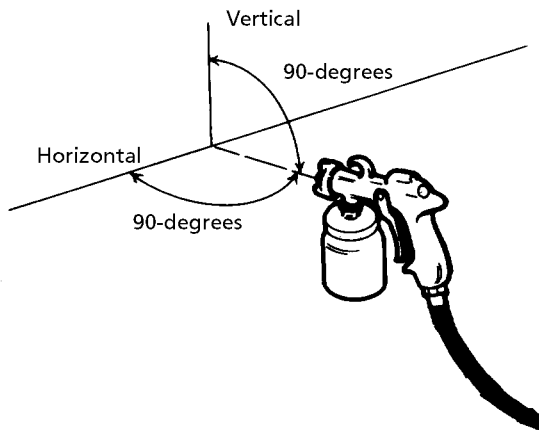


Figure 11

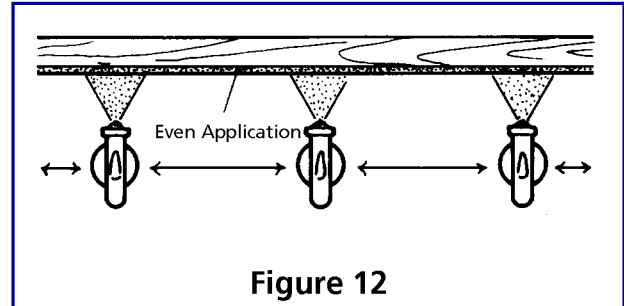
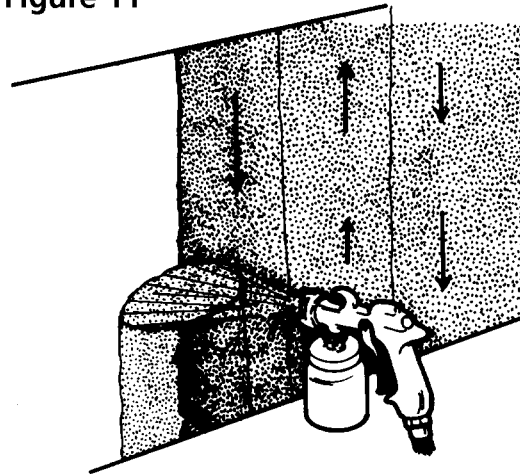


Figure 12

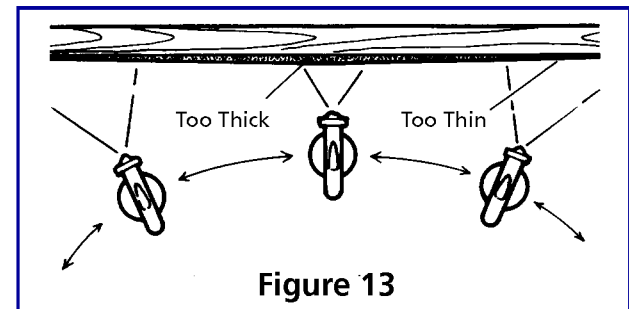


Figure 13