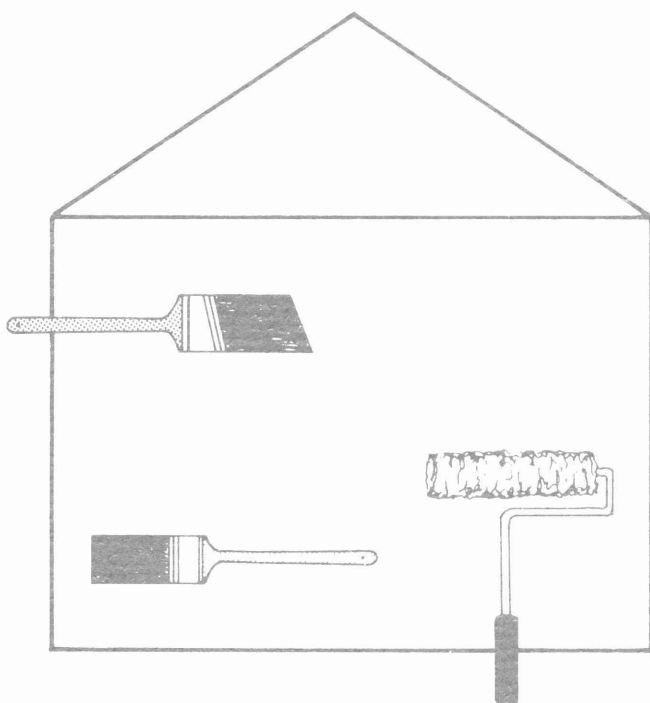


**YOU CAN DO IT!**

# Interior - Exterior Painting

## SELECTING BRUSHES AND ROLLERS



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YOU CAN DO IT!

Interior-Exterior Painting

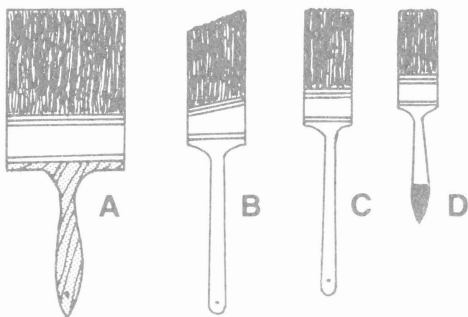
## SELECTING BRUSHES AND ROLLERS

Extension Housing  
and

Home Furnishings Specialists  
The Texas A&M University System

This publication will help you select proper painting tools for a particular job. Good paint brushes, rollers and accessories represent a healthy investment, so information is included on caring for them, too.

### WHICH SIZE BRUSH?



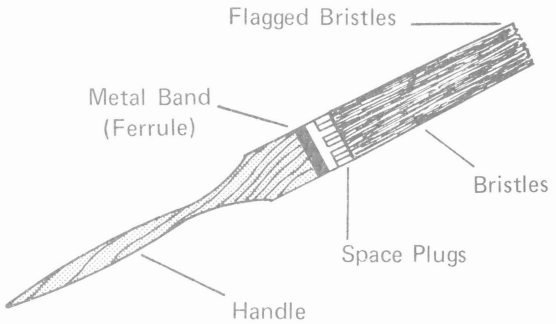
Most paint jobs around the house can be accomplished with one of the following brushes:

- A 4-inch brush for large, flat surfaces such as floors, walls and exterior siding
- An angled, sash brush for windows, frames, moldings and other narrow surfaces

- A 2-inch brush with chiseled edge for enamel and varnish
- A 1- to 1½-inch brush for small jobs, toys, furniture and hard-to-reach places

## NATURAL BRISTLES OR SYNTHETIC BRISTLES?

When deciding between a natural or nylon bristle brush, remember that natural bristle is used primarily for applying varnish or alkyd or oil-base paints. Never use natural bristle brushes for latex or water-thinned paints because the bristles absorb water and become limp.



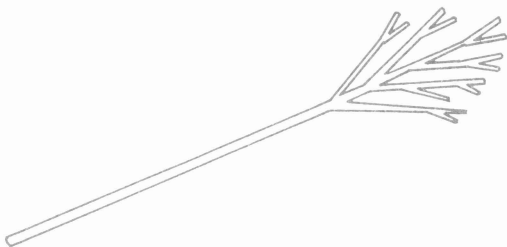
Synthetic bristles usually are made of nylon fiber and are used to apply latex, alkyd or oil-base paints. They generally are superior to natural bristle brushes in wearability. Although synthetic bristle brushes are used for almost any paint project, they do not give the best results with varnishes.

## CHOOSE A QUALITY BRUSH

There is a marked difference between good quality brushes and rollers and less expensive, "economy" brushes and rollers. The home handyman buys good

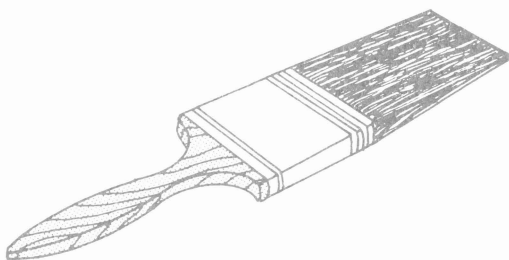
quality brushes because he wants a faster, better and neater appearing paint job. Here are some things to consider when selecting a paint brush.

- Fullness of bristles. Squeeze bristles gently: they should feel full and spongy. Poke your fingers into the bristles on the innermost part to determine fullness. A full bristle brush holds more paint for a faster job.



- Flagged bristles. Look closely at the bristle ends. They should have a number of fine, branchlike ends. These split ends signify a quality brush that will hold a good amount of paint and cover the surface in fewer passes.

- Bristle length. See if the bristle length is varied. Variance in bristle length permits a larger brush load than when all ends are cut even. Also, as the tip of the brush wears out, new bristle tips replace the worn ones.



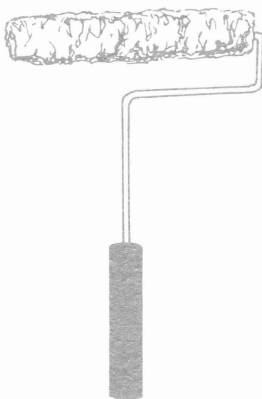
- Tapered bristles. See if the base end of the bristles fastened by the metal band is somewhat thicker than the tip end. You'll get a more satisfactory paint job if the bristles taper in toward the tip.

## CHOOSE THE RIGHT ROLLER

Paint rollers are great timesavers and aid in achieving a uniform finished appearance. Although rollers are used primarily for interior walls and ceilings, their use outdoors for lap and vertical siding is increasing. Rollers also are ideal for smooth masonry.

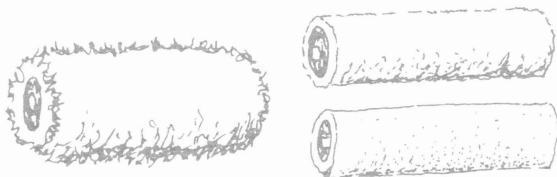
You'll want to consider the following points when selecting a roller.

Two popular sizes (7-inch and 9-inch) of paint rollers are available. Special-application trim rollers (usually 3 inches wide) and corner rollers also are available. Most paint trays are designed for a roller up to 9 inches wide. Roller frames either have a compression-type cage or have the roller cover attached with an end cap held by a wing nut. Compression frames permit easier and faster roller-cover mounting or removal. The roller-cover core should be constructed of plastic-impregnated cardboard to resist softening and warping. If you apply floor or ceiling paint with a roller, be sure the frame handle has a threaded end permitting an extension pole to be added.



Roller covers, like brushes, also are available with either natural or synthetic fibers.

Natural fiber covers, made with wool or mohair, usually are recommended for oil-base paints, varnish and stains or similar finishes.

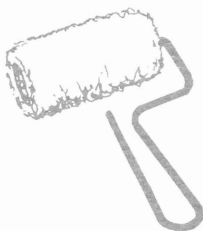


Synthetic-fiber covers containing Dynel or rayon frequently are recommended for applying latex paints.

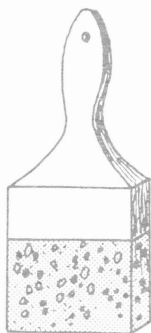
Roller-Cover Pile	Application
Standard - 1/4"	most ceiling, wall or floor work
High - 3/4" or 1-1/4"	exceptionally rough surfaces such as stucco, masonry, brick and wire fences
Stipple	for a stipple-textured finish or for rolling on mastic materials



Corner rollers are 3-inch-diameter, round rollers with a wedge-shaped edge made from soft polyurethane foam to conform to corner irregularities.



Trim rollers, 3 inches wide with functionally shaped wire handles, are made from all-purpose mohair fabric for use on sashes, screens, woodwork, window trim, cutting in and other hard-to-reach areas.



Pad applicators give the speed of rollers and the smooth finish of brushes. They are made of foam for use on smooth surfaces.

## CARE OF A BRUSH OR ROLLER

Clean a brush or roller immediately after use. If this is impossible, soak it in water if you used water-base paint. Use turpentine for oil-base paint. A brush or roller is more easily cleaned and better preserved if cleaned immediately.

*If you used an oil-base paint:*

- Roll or brush out excess paint from the brush or roller.
- Remove the roller from its handle and wash in the correct solvent. Wash until no more paint comes out. Wash a brush the same way. Save the solvent. The paint will go to the bottom, and you can use the top layer for washing other brushes or rollers.
- Wring out excess liquid from the roller by squeezing the fibers between your fingers. Remove excess from the brush by using painting motions on newspapers.
- Clean with powdered soap, liquid detergent or cleaning powder rubbed into the bristles. Rinse in warm water until all soap or detergent is removed.
- Allow the brush or roller to dry. Then wrap the brush in foil and store it on its side or hang it. Hang the roller; do not lay it on its end or nap.

*If you used a water-base paint:*

- Roll or brush out excess paint from the brush or roller.
- Wash by rubbing powdered soap, liquid detergent or cleaning powder into the pad or bristles. Rinse in warm water until all soap or detergent is removed.
- Rinse a second time in warm water.
- Allow the brush or roller to dry. Then wrap brush in foil and store it on its side or hang. Hang the roller; do not lay it on its end or nap.

*If the brush or roller must be left for a time while you are painting, cover it tightly with aluminum foil.*

## **A Good Brush and Roller Are Worth Caring For!**

*Educational programs conducted by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service serve people of all ages regardless of socio-economic levels, race, color, sex, religion or national origin.*

Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, The Texas A&M University System and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914.

10M-6-73

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