

ConsumerReports®

BUYING GUIDE

2013



The advice
you need
before
you buy

1,800+

BRAND-NAME PRODUCTS RATED

BEST & WORST

- Appliances
- Electronics
- Cars & more



Quick Guide

PAINTS, INTERIOR



No one paint can do it all—we found winners for each gloss level, with one-coat hiding ability, smoothness, suitability for sunny spaces, and even low VOC levels.

What to look for

- Flat paint for a formal living room, dining room, or other space that doesn't see heavy use, because it isn't the most stain resistant
- Eggshell or satin for family rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, kids' rooms, hallways, and the like
- Semi-gloss for windowsills, trim, and other woodwork to add contrast (while typically stain resistant, many semi-gloss paints will dull when cleaned)

What to skip

- Bright greens and yellows for sun-drenched rooms, because these colors tend to fade a lot; whites and browns are better choices

What you'll pay

About \$19 to \$66 per gallon. Each gallon covers about 400 square feet of smooth wall; rougher surfaces require a bit more.

For more buying advice, go to ConsumerReports.org/paint

Shopping tip

For the best coverage, we recommend using two coats, even with a top-scoring paint.



Scan this or see how, page 11

Recommendation	Rank	Brand & model	Price	Overall score	Test results							
					Hiding	Staining	Gloss change	Scrubbing	Surface smoothness	Resists mildew	Resists sticking	Resists fading
				0 100								
				P F G V G E								Claimed VOCs (grams/liter)

A SATIN & EGGSHELL

✓	1	Benjamin Moore Aura Satin	\$66	85	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	•		50
✓	2	Behr Premium Plus Ultra Satin Enamel (Home Depot)	33	84	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	•	•	50
✓	3	Kilz Casual Colors Satin	27	82	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	•	•	50
✓	4	Glidden Premium Satin (Home Depot)	23	80	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	•	•	50
✓	5	Behr Premium Plus Satin Enamel (Home Depot)	25	78	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	⊕	•	•	50
✓	6	Benjamin Moore Regal Select Eggshell	50	75	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	•	•	50
✓	7	Ace Royal Interiors Satin	27	74	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	⊕	•		50
✓	8	Valspar + Satin (Lowe's)	42	74	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	○			0

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				0100									
				P I F I G I V G I E									
B SEMI-GLOSS													
✓	1	Behr Premium Plus Ultra Semi-Gloss (Home Depot)	\$34	81	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	•	•		50
✓	2	Benjamin Moore Aura Semi-Gloss	66	80	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	⊕	•			50
✓	3	Ace Royal Interiors Semi-Gloss	28	77	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	•			50
✓	4	Glidden Brilliance Semi-Gloss (Walmart)	27	77	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	○			•	0
✓	5	Behr Premium Plus Semi-Gloss Enamel (Home Depot)	25	76	⊕	⊕	●	⊕	⊕	•	•		50
✓	6	Glidden Premium Semi-Gloss (Home Depot)	24	76	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	○	•	•		50
✓	7	Better Homes and Gardens Semi-Gloss (Walmart)	23	76	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕			•	0
✓	8	Benjamin Moore Natura Semi-Gloss	55	75	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	⊕	•			0
✓	9	Olympic One Semi-Gloss (Lowe's)	27	75	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	•			50
C FLAT & MATTE													
✓	1	Behr Premium Plus Ultra Flat (Home Depot)	31	82	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	•	•		50
✓	2	Benjamin Moore Aura Matte	66	77	⊕	⊕	○	⊕	⊕	•	•		50
✓	3	Behr Premium Plus Flat Enamel (Home Depot)	20	76	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	•	•		50
✓	4	Benjamin Moore Natura Flat	55	75	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	○	•	•	•	0
✓	5	Glidden Premium Flat (Home Depot)	19	73	⊕	○	⊕	○	⊕	•	•		50
✓	6	Valspar Signature Colors Matte (Lowe's)	31	72	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	⊕	•		•	50
Ratings Key ⊕Excellent ⊕Very good ○Good ⊕Fair ●Poor													
✓ CR Best Buy These models offer the best combination of performance and price. All are recommended.													
✓ Recommended These are high-performing models that stand out.													

Guide to the Ratings

Overall score is mainly hiding, surface smoothness, and resistance to staining, scrubbing, gloss change, sticking, mildew, and fading. Volatile organic compounds aren't scored. Most results reflect white, pastel, and medium-tint bases. **Hiding** is coverage of contrasting color with one and two coats (with one-coat coverage weighted most heavily). **Stains** is resistance to greasy stains. **Gloss change** is appearance after cleaning. **Scrubbing** is ability to resist abrasive cleaner. **Smoothness** is the absence of roller marks when dry. **Resists mildew** is the ability to inhibit mildew growth. **Resists sticking** indicates lack of tackiness when dry. **Resists fading** measures lightening under UV light. **Claimed VOCs (grams/liter)** is the maximum grams per liter for untinted base, as claimed. **Price** is approximate retail.