

ConsumerReports®

UNDER \$500: 5 EASY MAKEOVERS

KITCHEN

planning & buying guide

SPECIAL ISSUE | JULY 2012

Best Buys
Biggest Savings
For Your Kitchen

237
Top-Rated
Products

- Fridges
- Ranges
- Dishwashers
- Countertops
- Ovens & More!

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Simple Storage Solutions

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EXCLUSIVE
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RESULTS

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RECOMMENDED MODELS

Interior Paint

Our latest tests show that the best can save you work while helping the planet. These top picks hide with as little as one coat. Note: Ratings do not include flat and matte paints, which aren't ideal for hard-working kitchens.



Ratings

Recommended Rank	Product	Price (per gal.)	Overall score	Test results								VOCs Claimed (grams/liter)
				Hiding	Stains	Gloss change	Scrubbing	Smoothness	Resists mildew	Resists sticking	Resists fading	

A SATIN AND EGGSHELL Balanced strengths make these best for most areas.

✓	1	Benjamin Moore Aura Satin (1 3 4)	\$66	85	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	2	Behr Premium Plus Ultra Satin Enamel (Home Depot) (1)	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 (1 2 4)	50	75	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	7	Royal Interiors by ACE Satin	27	74	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	8	Valspar + Satin (Lowe's) (3)	42	74	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	9	Benjamin Moore Natura Eggshell (2)	55	72	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	10	Pittsburgh Paints Manor Hall Timeless Eggshell Plus	57	72	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	45
	11	Olympic Premium Satin (Lowe's)	24	72	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	12	Valspar Signature Colors Satin (Lowe's) (1 2 4)	33	72	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
	13	Glidden Brilliance Satin (Walmart) (1)	27	71	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	14	Olympic One Satin (Lowe's) (1 3)	26	71	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
	15	Valspar Ultra Premium Satin (Lowe's) (4)	27	70	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
	16	Better Homes and Gardens Satin (Walmart)	22	69	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	17	Dutch Boy Refresh Satin (2)	25	64	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
	18	Sherwin-Williams Duration Home Satin (1)	49	60	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	42
	19	Color Place Satin (Walmart) (2)	14	57	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50

B SEMIGLOSS Best for trim, doors, shelves, and other areas that are infrequently wiped.

✓	1	Benjamin Moore Regal Select Semi-Gloss (1 4)	50	81	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	2	Behr Premium Plus Ultra Semi-Gloss (Home Depot) (1)	34	81	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	3	Benjamin Moore Aura Semi-Gloss (1)	66	80	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	4	Royal Interiors by ACE Semi-Gloss	28	77	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	5	Glidden Brilliance Semi-Gloss (Walmart) (1)	27	77	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
✓	6	Behr Premium Plus Semi-Gloss Enamel (Home Depot)	25	76	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	7	Glidden Premium Semi-Gloss (Home Depot)	24	76	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
✓	8	Better Homes and Gardens Semi-Gloss (Walmart)	23	76	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
✓	9	Benjamin Moore Natura Semi-Gloss (4)	55	75	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
✓	10	Olympic One Semi-Gloss (Lowe's) (1)	27	75	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
	11	Kilz Casual Colors Semi-Gloss	28	72	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50



Tester Li Wang checks paint coverage with one coat.

Tests Behind 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** is the maximum grams per liter for untinted base, as claimed. **Price** is approximate retail.

What the symbols mean ● 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.

Ratings

Recommended	Rank	Product	Price (per gal.)	Overall score	Test results								VOCs	
					Hiding	Stains	Gloss change	Scrubbing	Smoothness	Resists mildew	Resists sticking	Resists fading		
				0100 P F G V G E										Claimed (grams/liter)

B SEMIGLOSS continued

12	Valspar Ultra Premium Semi-Gloss (Lowe's) [4]	\$29	71	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	50
13	Olympic Premium Semi-Gloss (Lowe's)	24	70	●	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	0
14	Valspar + Semi-Gloss (Lowe's)	43	69	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	0
15	Valspar Signature Colors Semi-Gloss (Lowe's) [1] [4]	34	68	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	50
16	True Value Easy Care Ultra Premium Semi-Gloss [4]	29	68	○	●	●	●	○	●	●	●	●	50
17	Pittsburgh Paints Manor Hall Timeless Semi-Gloss	58	66	●	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	46
18	Sherwin-Williams Duration Home Semi-Gloss [1]	51	62	○	●	●	○	○	●	●	●	●	40
19	Color Place Semi-Gloss (Walmart)	15	57	○	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	50

[1] Self-priming. [2] Flatter than labeled. [3] Glossier than labeled. [4] Manufacturer claims paint has been reformulated since our last tests.

What the "Green" Labels Mean



Asthma & Allergy Friendly

The Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America measures VOCs emitted during application and prohibits certain harmful chemicals. Companies pay \$7,500 or more to have paints tested and to use the certification. Only Valspar + has it so far.



Greenguard

This group allows only trace levels of VOCs, including formaldehyde and styrene. Manufacturers measure emissions from drying paint and pay \$3,000 or more to Greenguard for testing and to use the logo.



Green Seal

This independent group limits VOCs, bans certain other hazardous substances, and assesses performance. Companies pay \$2,500 to \$10,000 to have their paints evaluated and to use the Green Seal logo.



Green Wise

This independent certification limits VOCs and odors, and prohibits certain harmful chemicals. Products are tested by the Coatings Research Group, an industry group. Three Royal Interiors by Ace paints we tested have it; two are among our picks.



GreenSure

This one was created by Sherwin-Williams, is self-regulated, and covers only the company's products. Paints must have VOCs of 50 grams per liter or less and be free of certain other chemical substances. Sherwin-Williams Duration has it but rated low in our tests.



Green Promise

This certification is from the paint manufacturer Benjamin Moore and covers its own products, which are tested in third-party-certified labs to meet Greenguard and other protocols. Benjamin Moore's high-scoring Aura, Natura, and Regal paints all have it.