



## 4 Easy Fixes for Interior Painting Mistakes

*CR's paint pros tell you how to fix flubs without much fuss*

Enrique De Paz has tested paints in Consumer Reports' lab for 12 years, and applies his knowledge when painting his home and as a volunteer who helps paint and fix homes in need. "From what I've seen, missing a spot is the mistake most folks make," says De Paz. "Usually it's because they spread

the paint too thin." Here are his easy fixes for some common mistakes.

### Missed Spots

**THE GOOF** Blame poor lighting, fatigue, distraction, or spreading paint too thin for this common problem.

**THE FIX** After the paint dries—usually in about 4 hours—use leftover paint

to touch up the missed spots with a brush or roller depending on how large the missed spot is. Flare out the paint along the outside edges to blend the touch-up into the painted wall. If you do it before the paint dries completely, you'll mess up the paint surrounding the spot.

### Paint Runs

**THE GOOF** Perhaps you're using a long-napped roller, loading too much paint on the roller or brush, or not spreading the paint well.

**THE FIX** Once the paint dries, use fine sandpaper to remove

the run, then retouch with a brush, feathering the edges.

### Roller Marks

**THE GOOF** Using a cheap roller with obvious seams.

**THE FIX** Synthetic short-napped roller covers (¼ inch) work best on most walls, ceilings, and trim. Use longer-nap roller covers for textured walls or walls that have a very uneven surface. Rollers with steel frames and lots of tines are sturdier and stiffer than ones with just caps on the ends, and those sealed ends keep the paint on the roller cover. Before using a new

roller cover, use a piece of tape to remove loose lint.

### Uneven Lines

**THE GOOF** Prepping is a hassle, but even our top paints won't look their best if the surface isn't well-prepped.

**THE FIX** Taping. FrogTape Delicate Surface leaves a very sharp line and was easy to remove in our tests. And use a sash brush with a tapered tip. It has a narrow tip that gives you better control. Carefully remove the tape as soon as possible after painting so the paint doesn't dry and stick to it.

PHOTOS, FROM LEFT: TANA TEEL/STOCKSY, JEFFREY COOLIDGE/GETTY IMAGES; JESSICA KLEWICKI/GLYNN