

BRITISH STANDARD

BY PLAIN ENGLISH

HOW TO PAINT YOUR KITCHEN CUPBOARDS

Guide No. I



One of the appeals of British Standard Cupboards is how easily they can be customised with colour, to give them a sense of belonging within your home.

Every British Standard Cupboard is painted in an off white, a blank canvas ready to be primed and painted in your chosen colour.



Planning your Paint Scheme

There are no set rules when it comes to painting your cupboards, but there are several different techniques you might like to try to create different 'looks' in your space.

Monochrome

A Monochrome colour scheme is one in which the walls, woodwork and cupboards are all painted in the same colour. Most cupboards are painted in an eggshell paint but other finishes can add interest too gloss can add a contemporary edge creating an interesting contrast with our traditional cupboards.

Tonal

Another way of bringing unity to your kitchen is to create a tonal colour scheme by choosing two or three colours that work harmoniously together in your space. You might choose to use your main colour on the exterior of your cupboards with a complementary colour on the inside, or to highlight wall cupboards in a lighter accent colour to give the illusion of space.

Colour Block

For the more adventurous, a colour block technique is a simple way to add interest to an otherwise plain room, colour blocking is when you split the whole room with a horizontal line with one colour above and another below.

Painting Your Cupboards

Oil-based or water-based paint can be used according your preference. We generally recommend using Little Greene oil-based eggshell paint where possible, for it's hardness over time, though if you are not used to using paint then Farrow & Ball's water-based eggshell is more user friendly and just as hard wearing.

Where one's patience is willing we recommend hand painting your Cupboards using a good quality synthetic brush, if possible try Purdy's. To achieve a solid looking surface you'll need to apply at least two coats, and sometimes three. You are looking to build up thin coats of paint, so try to avoid applying too much at once otherwise you may be left with thick 'ridge and furrow' like brush strokes. Alternatively, if using oil-based paint only, you could apply the paint to the cupboards using a small six-inch foam roller, followed by lightly brushing out the paint. We would avoid solely using a roller as this can create a unappealing orange-peel like surface.





How to Paint Your Kitchen Cupboards

For the average kitchen you will need

Around 2.5 lt of topcoat and a suitable primer (refer to your painter for quantities), a two-inch 'Purdy' brush: depending on which paint you are using (there is a water-based or oil-based version of the same brush). Soft, dry dusting brush, Two-inch roll of masking tape, two-part filler, found in most DIY shops, sandpaper: 2m of 120 grit and 2m of 180 grit.

Process

Using a two part filler firstly fill any defects that have occurred from loading / transit / fitting.

When the filler is dry, sand all surfaces that are to be painted using 120 grit sand paper.

Using a soft, dry dusting brush or vacuum cleaner with brush attachment go over all the cupboards and the surrounding area, cleaning off the dust.

Use masking tape to tape up all the areas that you don't wish to paint (for example around the base where the cupboards meet the floor as well as the internal edges that you see when you open the cupboards).

Using your two-inch Purdy brush, apply the first coat of primer.

Once the paint is dry, sand again but this time using 180 grit sand paper and dust off, then apply another coat of paint repeating as necessary.

A single coat of primer and two topcoats should suffice, always refer to the suppliers' recommendations.

Maintaining Your Cupboards

The beauty of painted cupboards is they can easily be revived with a fresh lick of paint. A little wear and tear from being used and loved is charming, but should you want to refresh your cupboards, simply give the whole surface another coat of paint.

Even if you only have small marks on your cupboards, you should re-paint the whole area (for example a whole door or panel). Just putting a blob of paint over the mark can often make it stand out more than before.

If you wish to refresh your cupboards then follow steps 2–5 of the 'Painting' guide, but this time apply one coat of paint instead of two.

Ideally, try and use the same tin of paint as you originally used, as different batches of paint can vary slightly in colour. A tin of paint can last many years if the lid is sealed tight, kept indoors and away from fronts, so take care to preserve it well.





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