



## Color Washing – Decorative Technique

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Color washing, or "broken finish" technique, is an interesting and attractive alternative to flat wall colors. It can be used in any room and goes with any decorating style. This process involves applying a translucent glaze over a contrasting, opaque base coat to produce subtle, aging color variations. Visible brush marks, which are usually frowned upon, should now be left apparent in order to give the finish a texture and depth once the contrasting glaze is applied.

### Materials Checklist

**Note: Amounts given will cover  
100-sq.ft. of surface.**

- 1-qt. of EZ-Kare Latex Flat Enamel (your color choice)
- 1-qt. of EZ-Kare Satin Enamel for Glaze (your color choice)
- 1-qt. of EZ-Kare Satin Neutral Base
- Mixing Pot
- 1 3-In. AccuFlo Synthetic Brushes
- 1 Ultimate Stain Brush, Pure Bristle Extra Thick (True Value sku # 164365)
- 1 or 2 Old Measuring Cups
- Stir Stick or Paint Paddle
- Rags (for clean-up)
- Water



### Tip: Techniques

- Practice first on a piece of poster board until you achieve a look you like! Light or pale base coat colors with a somewhat darker glaze-coat look great since it will not over-power a room.
- The base coat and glaze coat should not be the same color, but they can be in the same color family. An example of this would be a pale green base coat and a sage green glaze coat.
- The neutral base **will not** change the color of your glaze; it will make it more translucent.

### Step 1: Paint the Surface

Apply a base coat of the color you selected to your surface and allow the paint to dry thoroughly.

### Step 2: Mix Glaze

You can double or triple the amounts mentioned, but it is easier to work with a small amount since it creates less waste. Measure 1 cup of the satin paint and two cups of neutral base into your mixing paint pot. Add a little water at a time and stir well each time. Add to the point where the glaze is a little on the runny side, but not too thin where it won't stick to your brush. The right consistency is important here since the base coat should show through the glaze for the final effect.

### Step 3: Apply Glaze

Use a 3-inch AccuFlo brush to apply the glaze in **random** strokes. Concentrate on no more than a 3-foot area at a time.

### Step 4: Soften the Look

While the surface is still wet, use the **dry** Ultimate Stain Brush to quickly go over the surface in order to soften your brush strokes. Work in random or arc-like strokes depending on the desired effect.



### Tip: Glazing

If you want a more even effect, use arc-like brush strokes instead of random strokes.

(Step 5 on back)

### Step 5: Wood Application Only

If you decide to try this technique on wood, make sure you apply both the base and glaze coat in the direction of the grain. In this instance, you would want to rub the glaze into the wood using a soft cloth, rather than using the brushes to soften.



### Tip: Skimming the Surface

Take caution while skimming the surface. Over do it on this step and you will drag the glaze. You can repeat the glaze technique again after approximately 2 hours if you want a greater depth of color.

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