

3.3 Painting

Painting Over Graffiti

There is only one situation where you will need to paint a surface, which is when a surface was already painted prior to being hit with graffiti. It is the last resort on non-painted surfaces because once it has been painted, it will most likely need to remain a painted surface forever. The cost to remove all of the paint from a fully painted masonry wall would be thousands of dollars and days worth of work, if it is even possible. Be sure to explain this to the customer if they want bare masonry painted, so they can make the decision with having all of the information they would need on this topic. Latex paint is thick and would take much more product to remove it than a thin coat of spray paint does.

Matching a wall's colour with a properly matched paint colour is important because it will help reduce future graffiti. It needs to look like graffiti was never there. Purchase enough paint for the job. One gallon (4 litres) of paint will cover approximately 400 square feet of surface, but each brand of paint and wall surface texture will make this number vary. Too much paint will cut into your profits on the job and too little will require coming to the job-site again, which will also cut into profits. Ask the people at your local paint store for anymore specific information or advice on using their brand of paint, such as painting in different temperatures, square foot coverage, suggested roller piling, etc...

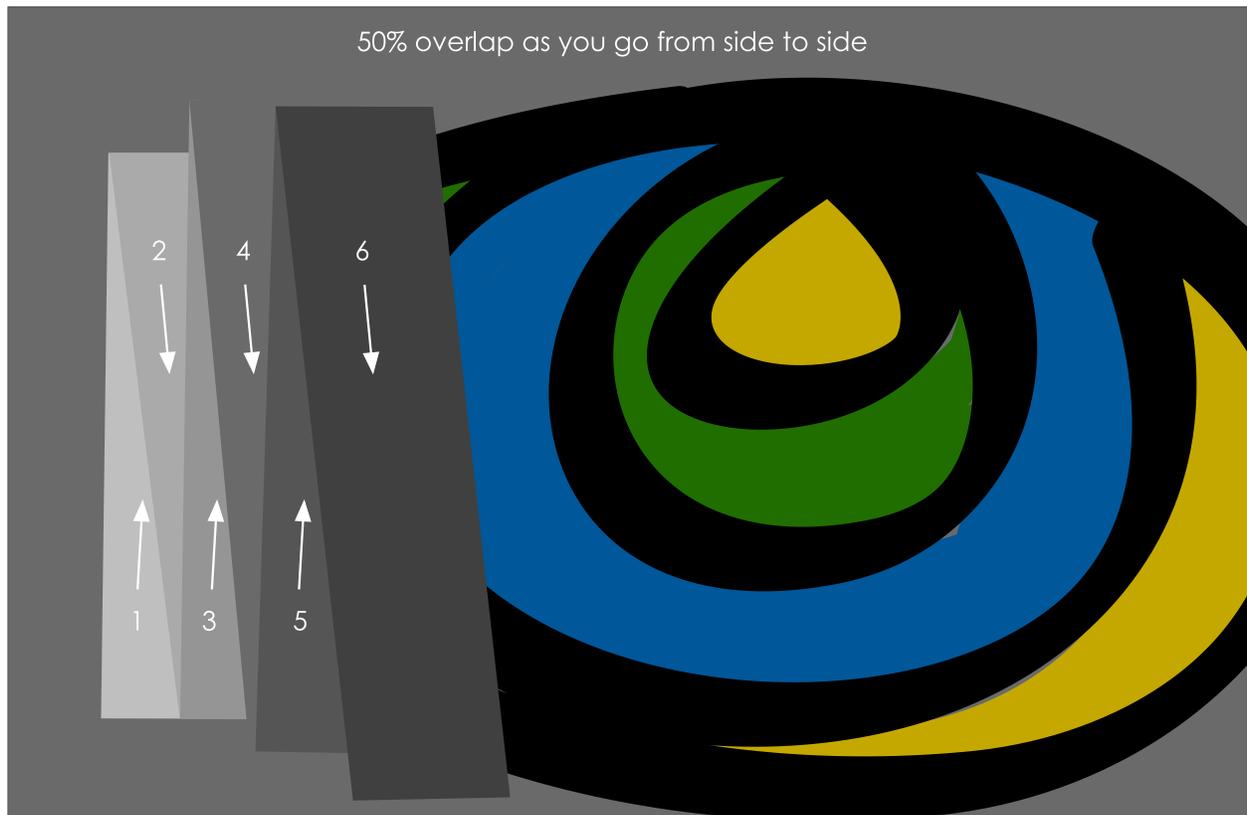
Colour Matching

There are a few different ways to get an exact colour match of a wall you are going to paint. The first, and easiest, way to get the colour is to ask the building owner or manager if they know what colour was originally used, or if they have any of the paint left over. If they don't, then you will need to get a small sample off of the building for the paint store's spectrometer. A spectrometer can scan a paint colour and provide the paint code for the colour. This is not always a perfect match, so the larger the sample you can provide, the better they will do. A scraper, blade, or masonry hammer might be needed to get a piece of the building's paint off, so be careful and make sure to repaint the section you take a sample from. A minimum of a 1.5" square is usually enough for their machines, but the larger the better.

Each paint company's paint is different and so are the techniques used by the people operating the machine and mixing the paint. If the paint doesn't match exactly how you want it to once it's dried on the wall, take it back and ask them to fix it. Do a small sample and test this before using the paint because they can often fix the paint's tint without using a new can. If you use too much of the paint, the code's won't match with the volume of paint left in the can and you could be charged for another can of paint. Always let the paint fully dry before assessing whether or not the colour is correct. Paint will drastically change colour (shade) as it dries, so give it some time. A good place to sample this is on the edge of the graffiti that you are covering. You'll be painting this area regardless, so if the paint needs adjustment, you'll be painting over this anyways.

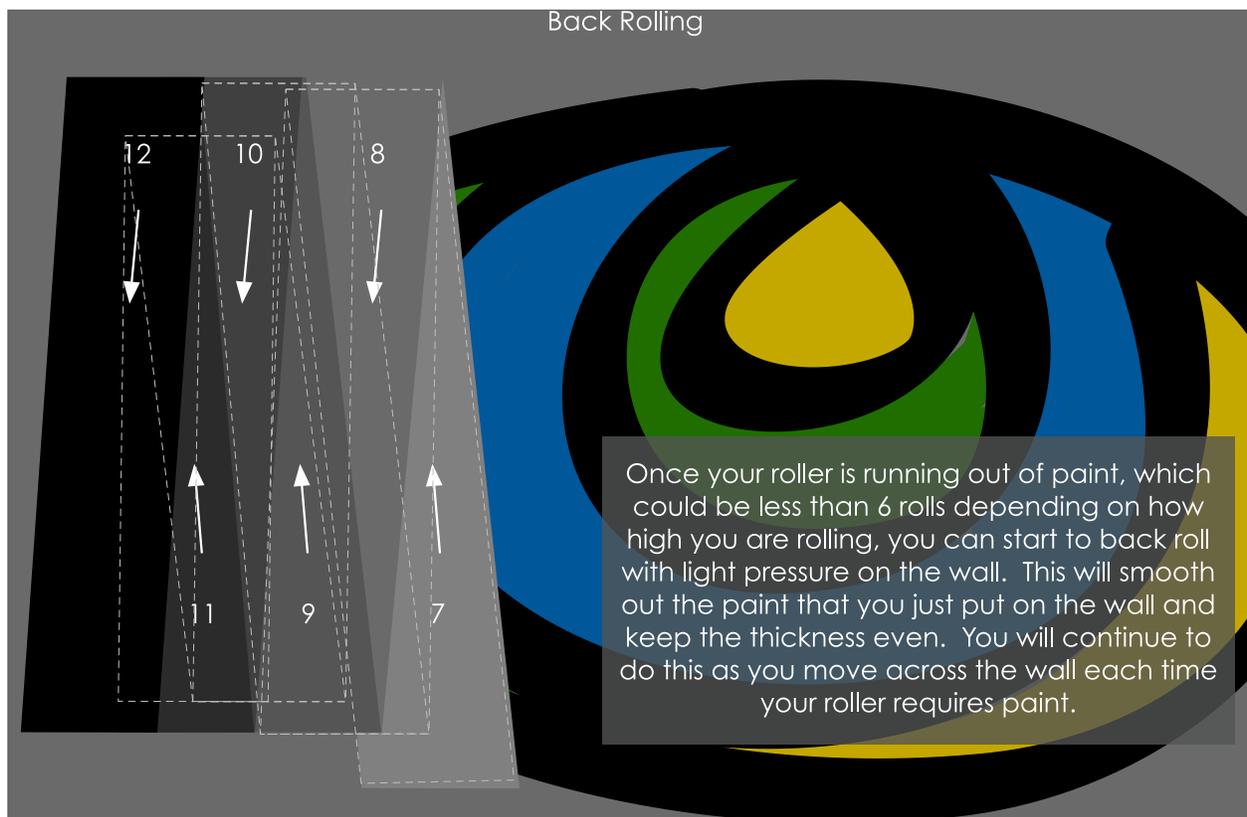
Painting Techniques

1. Clean the surface you are going to paint.
2. Tape off any corners, door handles, hinges, or anything that may get touched when cutting in with a brush.
3. Lay down drop sheets in the area you are going to paint.
4. Make sure your tray and roller have lots of paint in them.
5. Prime or paint over the graffiti and let dry.
6. Cut in the corners of the wall or around any detailed areas with a brush first so that your roller won't need to touch, get close to, or go over any area that you don't want touched.
7. Start rolling from one side of the wall at the bottom and do continuous full length rolls up and down until just before the roller runs out of paint. Each time you go up, or down, overlap your last roll at the half way point. This overlap will give you better coverage as you will be rolling each part of the wall with a roll up, and a roll down. Your leading edge of the roller should have slightly more pressure than the following edge to prevent lines of paint left down the side. The ratio would be about 55 /45 because you want the roller's sleeve piling to still be touching the surface.

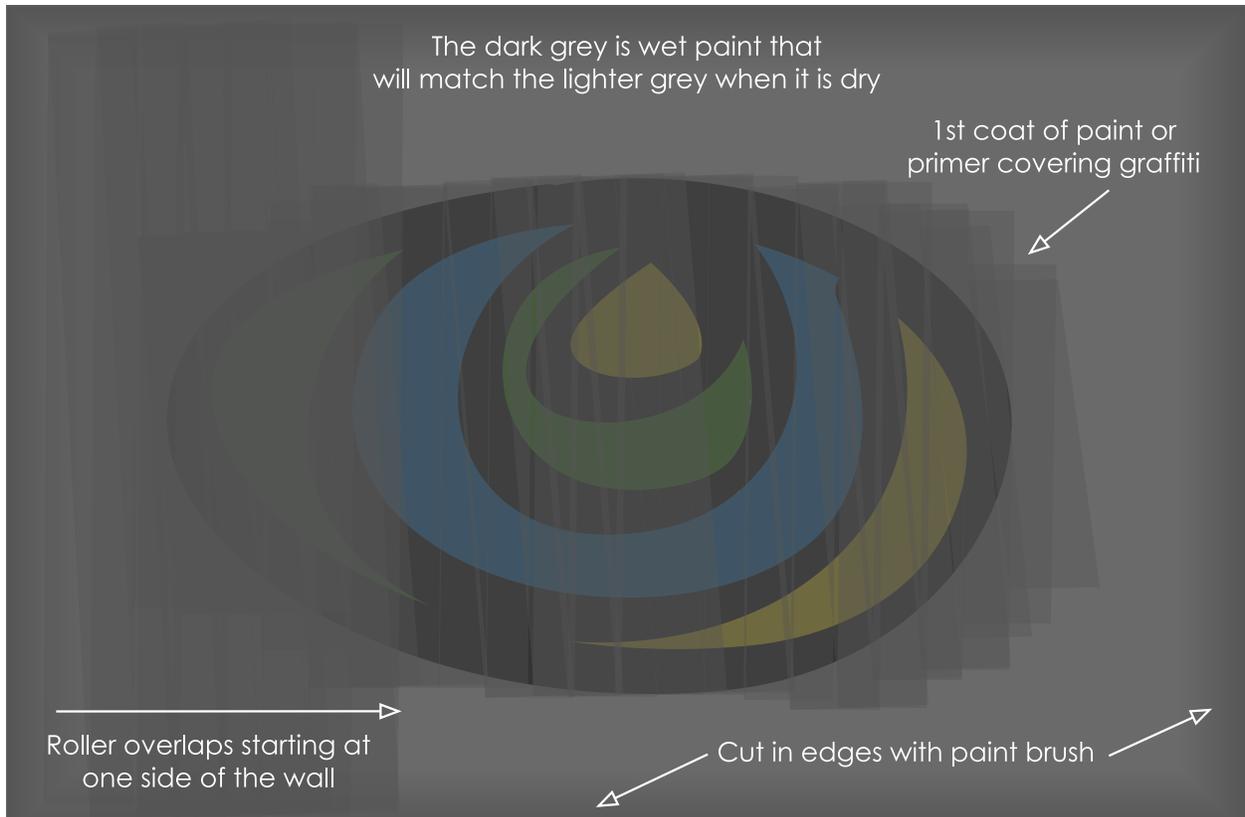


Painting Diagram 1

8. Once your roller is starting to need paint, back roll over the area you just painted and keep the transition from where you last stopped as smooth as possible. You can almost let the roller float over the surface on the back roll in order to prevent lines. This can be done by having your pole angled upwards and using your top hand to guide it with zero pressure on it. The angle of your pole applying pressure to your roller as it is leaning against the wall and moving up and down is all the pressure needed for this.
9. Don't take the roller off the wall once you start until you're going to get more paint on it from the tray. Your next starting point with a full roller of paint will be next to (but doesn't need to be overlapping) your last area of wet paint. When you back roll this section you will be covering this area as your roller will have just come back over the heaviest/thickest paint part of this section (your first up roll that had the most paint on the roller) and smoothing out this transition.
10. Wait until the painted surface is completely dry before you paint the next coat(s) as needed.
11. Use a "WET PAINT" paper sign taped to an area of the wall, which doesn't have wet paint on it, that can be easily removed if you are not going to be on the job-site as the final coat dries.



Painting Diagram 2



Painting Diagram 3

After the job is complete, return the extra paint from the tray back into the pail of paint and make sure to have it labeled with the building address, date, colour, area of building, and customer name. There is a good chance this building will get hit again with graffiti in the near future, so if there's enough paint left over, you will save money on the next job. You won't have to paint the whole area again, since you now have an exact paint match.

Your rollers and brush can be placed into a plastic bag until you can clean them or if you use a zip-lock bag, you can save them with the paint pail and use them again. This is more commonly practiced on building paints that are used frequently, such as GPP buildings and standard colours like white or black.

Improper Painting Effects

To punctuate the importance of painting a surface with the proper coloured paint, the photos below were taken of squares or improper colours painted over graffiti. As you can see, an improper paint job to cover graffiti actually attracts more graffiti because it has created a frame or has created a challenge.

By correctly painting a surface, the likelihood of reoccurring graffiti is drastically reduced. It is even arguable that by painting a wrong colour over graffiti, or it being obvious that graffiti was once there, it can attract just as much new graffiti as it if were never cleaned or painted in the first place.



+ MODULE 3 EXERCISES

1. Locate some local paint stores in your area and inquire about paint prices as a new contractor. Find out what paint products they recommend and decide on which company you want to use as your local supplier when painting is required.

+ ATTACHMENTS

Painting Diagram 1

Painting Diagram 2

Painting Diagram 3

+ LINKS

Remove My Graffiti Products

<https://www.removeygraffiti.com/shop>