

How to Paint a Staircase

When painting a staircase, working from the top down is key. Be sure to go from the top of the staircase right down to the bottom. Paint one step at a time, so you don't end up stepping on wet paint.

Just as with any other painting project, preparation is very important.

1. Because staircases get so much traffic, you need to vacuum and remove all the dirt and dust first. This way the paint will adhere much better.
2. Dust and clean the hand railing and balusters as well.
3. Use fine-grit sandpaper to smooth the wood surfaces for painting. Clean the surface with a cloth after you finish sanding.
4. You may need to vacuum the stairs again before you start to paint.

TIP: If you plan to varnish the handrail, do this step first before painting, so that you don't risk getting varnish on your newly painted stairs. Paint the balusters, the post, and the handrail before you paint the stairs.

For best results, *ALWAYS READ THE PAINT CAN LABEL*. Professionals read the paint can labels to get the paint manufacturers' most up-to-date information and instructions on the use of each specific paint. Every paint is different, and the labels provide important information, such as the average coverage area per gallon, drying times, number of coats needed, and surface preparation requirements. The labels also give specific safety information that should be carefully adhered to.