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Painting – a quick and easy fix

By LISA CARTWRIGHT
Advertising Features

Painting and stenciling are quick and easy ways of improving your home.

By stenciling the walls of your kitchen, the top of your table and chairs and your tablecloth and napkins with green ivy, people can create a whole new look for their kitchen (or any other room of their home), says Gail Koidis, owner of Avonlea Paints.

"It's a way to expressing yourself. You can put (stenciling) where you want it. You don't have to follow a line on the ceiling, you can transfer it on furniture and on fabric – you can create a whole room," she says.

Stencils and stencil paints can be picked up at most paint stores. If you are artistic, you can create your own stencils.

This year's popular stencil designs are celestial (moons, suns and stars) and cherubs, she says.

Stencilling is time consuming

With stencilling, you can only paint a few designs at a time. So if you want to change the look of your room immediately, they can paint it, she says.

"Paint is a quick fix and a real pick me up," she says. And a relatively cheap one because you can work with what the have, she says.

Color Washing

How to do it:

You can use the color that is already on the wall or repaint it.

Mix glaze and a different shade of the original color together. With a paint brush, sponge or rag, spread the mixture on the wall in a cross hatching (arching) motion. Let it dry. The glaze makes the paint transparent, which allows the original color to come through. The end result is a wall that has two colors – the original and the new one.

Smooching:

How to do it:

Smooching produces a variety of looks including marble and swede.

Like color washing, people can either use the original color on the wall or repaint it. Once the paint is dry, mix the glaze and another color of the same tone together. Paint the wall. Before it dries, place a drop sheet on the wall. Using your hand, pat or stroke the drop sheet, taking some of the newly-applied paint off.

Let it dry. The end result will vary on the drop sheet – the heavier it is, the more crinkles remain on the wall.

Colors give off a certain "feeling"

Before painting, you should decide on how you want a room to feel. Colors and accents (furniture, wall hangings and so on) give rooms different feelings, says Koidis.

A lemon yellow is stimulating, while a creamy, butter-looking yellow is relaxing, she says. Browns, and colors with browns in them (called-Taupe) are warm colors, while blues are cooler colors, she says.

Picking the color

This year, tartan green, gold-enrod, navy, scarlet, burgundy and Terra Cotta (a pinky-orange) are popular colors, she says.

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The Markham Crime Prevention Committee, in conjunction with York Regional Police, is holding a

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH INFORMATION SESSION

FEBRUARY 6, 7:30 P.M.

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The session will cover how a Neighbourhood Watch is set up, it's cost, the number of people needed and what it can accomplish.

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