

New plastic paint takes away hassle

Ever tried painting plastic? Ah, the joys. The puddling, the peeling, the mess. But Krylon Fusion, a new spray paint designed especially for plastics, has just come onto the market.

It needs no priming, and it claims to resist fading and chipping under outdoor exposure. You know what that means: Next winter you can have the glossiest plastic chair on the block, guarding your shoveled-out parking space.

Krylon Fusion, which is available in 16 colors, is also safe for children's toys, flower pots, mailboxes, yard ornaments (pink flamingos, anyone?), milk crates and more. And the paint dries in just 15 minutes. Available in 12-ounce aerosol cans, the paints retail from \$3.99 to \$4.79 at Wal-Mart, True Value, Ace, Sears Hardware and Sherwin-Williams Paint Stores.

Metal paint product eliminates prep

With warm weather approaching (keep the faith), you're sure to be outdoors doing some minor touch-ups, such as painting metal. Applying paint to railings, fence posts, trim and flashing can be tedious because of preparation. Hammerite RustCap eliminates prep work because it doesn't need a primer; the paint is applied directly to rusted iron and steel. The paint dries to a rust-encapsulating coating that contains glass flakes. This glass interlocks with special resins to form a protective layer that moisture can't penetrate. No moisture, no rust.

Hammerite dries in 30 to 45 minutes and comes in gallon (\$55), quart (\$14) and aerosol (\$8) containers. Available at paint stores, selected home centers and True Value hardware stores. For more information, visit www.rustcap.com.

Colors from Mickey and his friends in the paint aisle

BY KATHLEEN STANLEY
Special to The Washington Post

A new line of Disney Color from Behr paint sold exclusively through the Home Depot includes 160 hues. But anyone interested in duplicating the lavender-laced bedroom from the line's Princess Collection need remember only eight:

- Bibbidi Bobbidi Blue
- Fairest of Them All
- Clock Strikes 12,
- Moonlight Waltz
- Tinker Bell
- A Wave of the Wand
- Happily Ever After
- Dreams Come True.

Oh, and a smidgen of Ultra Pure White 7050.

Got all that? Mercifully, the Home Depot's new Color Solutions Center, where the Disney paint samples are displayed, includes how-to cards with explicit instructions (ceiling: Bibbidi Bobbidi Blue; top wall: Fairest of Them All; bottom wall: Clock Strikes 12).

"We've found that parents will be a little more daring with a space that they know they'll change as their kids grow up," said Jason Feldman, Home Depot's director of style, innovation and design. "They're also more willing to experiment with things that are fun."

There are four ready-made motifs to consider: a nursery (Pooh Collection), a bathroom (Mickey Collection) and two children's rooms (Princess and Pooh).

Disney paints cost the same as other Behr paints (from \$17.97 to \$21.97 per gallon; \$8.49 to \$11.40 per quart) and come in the same finishes (flat, eggshell, satin and semi-gloss). A coordinating line of stencils and stamps, retailing for about \$10, is due out by the end of May.

Home decks offer comfort and value

BY KATHLEEN STANLEY
Special to The Washington Post

For the folks at Skil Power Tools, the first sign of spring is not daffodils or cherry blossoms; it's the sound of circular saws, belt sanders and hammer drills constructing some of the 6.5 million decks that go up in the United States each year.

Of course, Skil has a vested interest in all that construction, which is why the company is sponsoring National Build Your Own Deck Week (May 3-10) and launching a nationwide search for the five best do-it-yourself decks (see www.skil.com for details).

According to a survey by Remodeling magazine, an average deck costs \$5,854 and generally recoups 75 percent of its value when the house is sold, the biggest bang for your buck of any outdoor improvement other than painting.

Other deck-worthy stats:

- Number of U.S. homes with decks: approximately 30 million.
- Average number of years before a deck is replaced or remodeled: 11 years.
- Average deck sizes on new homes: 252 square feet for tract houses; 407 square feet for custom.
- Most popular materials: pressure-treated lumber, western red cedar, concrete, redwood and plastic.



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