



MINERAL WHITE

Getting a beautiful, breathable silicate finish, step by step

Mineral White is a true silicate paint, so it works a little differently from ordinary emulsion, in a good way. Instead of sitting on the wall as a plastic film, it bonds into the plaster and becomes part of it, giving a deep, breathable, stone-like matt. Once you know a couple of things it is genuinely easy to use. This guide walks you through it and answers the questions we are asked most.

What you will need

- Mineral White (see how much below), stirred well
- A synthetic-bristle brush for cutting in, and a medium-pile roller for the open areas
- Clean water for thinning, and a stirring stick
- Dust sheets and low-tack masking tape
- Gloves and eye protection: it is strongly alkaline in the tin
- A silicate primer, only if your wall needs one (see Step 1)

How much do I need?

Mineral White covers **8 to 9 m² per litre, per coat**, and most walls take two coats. To work it out: measure each wall (width × height), add them up, multiply by 2 for two coats, then divide by 8.

Quick example	A small room with about 30 m ² of wall needs roughly 60 m ² of coverage, so around 7 to 8 litres for two coats.
Sizes	100 ml tester, 1 L, 2.5 L, 5 L and 10 L. A tester pot is the easy way to try it first.
Good to know	Bare or very absorbent plaster drinks more on the first coat, so allow a little extra.

Step by step

1 Prepare the surface

The wall must be clean, dry, sound and absorbent. Fill any cracks and let repairs dry. Remove flaking old paint, and any varnish, latex, oil or synthetic-resin paint, silicate needs a mineral surface to bond to. Mask or cover glass, tiles and metal, as the alkali can etch them. New plaster should be left at least 10 days, new concrete at least 30.

2 Prime, only if needed

Chalky, very absorbent, heavily filled or plasterboard walls should be primed with a silicate primer first for an even finish. Sound old mineral or matt emulsion often needs no primer. Not sure? Do the water test: flick a little water on the wall. If it soaks straight in, you are good to go. If it beads up, there is a sealer or plastic paint to remove or prime over.

3 Mix and thin the first coat

Stir thoroughly. For the first coat, add 5 to 10% clean water and stir again. Work in a room that is above +5 °C.

4 Paint the first coat

Cut in the edges, then roller the main areas. Keep a wet edge, meaning do not let one section dry before you blend the next into it, and finish a whole wall in one go. This is the single biggest trick for an even, patch-free result.

5 Second coat

Once the first coat is dry, about 5 hours for white, apply the second coat undiluted (add up to 3 to 5% water only if it feels stiff). Two coats is normal.

Tips for a lovely finish

- Always finish a wall corner to corner in one session, do not stop halfway across.



- Silicate can look patchy and darker while wet, and evens out as it dries. Judge it only once dry.
- It is meant to be a soft, chalky matt that holds the light, not a sheen.
- Keep to one batch per room and give it an occasional stir as you go.

Damp and mould-prone rooms: Mineral White is a breathable mineral paint that helps rooms manage moisture, which is why silicate has long been chosen for bathrooms, kitchens and cellars. It is not a mould-killing treatment. If a wall already has active mould, sort out the cause and clean the mould off first, then finish with Mineral White.

Common questions

Can I paint over my existing emulsion?

Only if it is sound, matt and absorbent. Because silicate bonds to a mineral surface, glossy or plasticky paint should be removed or sealed with a silicate primer first. The water test above tells you which you have.

Which primer do I need, and when?

A silicate primer, and only on very absorbent, chalky, heavily filled or plasterboard walls. On sound old mineral or matt emulsion you usually need none.

Is it safe around children and pets?

Once cured it is simply mineral: allergy-neutral, preservative-free and barely any VOC. In the tin it is strongly alkaline, so wear gloves and eye protection and keep it off skin while you paint.

How soon can I wash the walls?

Let it cure fully, a couple of weeks, before washing. Once cured it is washable and scrubbable (wet abrasion class 2).

Can I use it on woodwork, radiators or metal?

No. Mineral White is for mineral walls and ceilings, not wood or metal. Mask metal off, and use an appropriate paint for trim.

Is it available in colours?

It is supplied as a soft natural white. Silicate can be tinted with mineral pigments, so if you would like a tinted shade, just ask us.

How do I clean up?

Brushes and rollers wash out with plain water straight after use. Reseal the tin, store it cool but frost-free, and use opened tins reasonably soon. Never pour paint down the drain.

Soil & Sky Mineral White. Application guide v1.0, 2026. Guidance is given in good faith; always test on your own surfaces first. A full safety data sheet is available on request.