

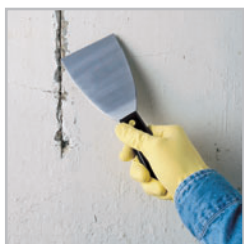
## getting started

Once you've chosen the effect you like best, experiment with colors. Use highly contrasting colors for a bolder effect. Or similar colors for a softer effect. Whichever look you prefer, test your ideas on a piece of board first.

Before you paint, read the instructions thoroughly, clear the room of furniture and gather all the materials you'll need. Grab a few extra rags and drop cloths, too. That way you'll feel free to be a little more daring. And for personal protection, wear safety glasses, protective clothing and gloves. Just remember, it's only paint. If you don't like something, just paint over it.

## preparing the surface

Not all walls are alike. Suppose yours are in less-than-perfect shape. Some techniques can actually hide those bumps and lumps since they add a textured look. Of course, a smooth surface always works best. If you can, take the time to fill in cracks and sand down any rough spots before you start. Be sure to use caution when working with existing coatings on the surface. Refer to the paint label for more information on safe preparation.



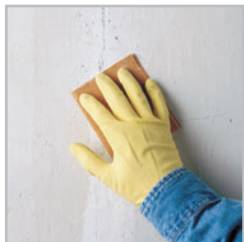
**1** Remove loose paint and plaster.

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**2** Repair any cracks, holes or other imperfections.

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**3** After the filler dries, sand to a smooth finish.

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**4** With a damp clean rag, wipe away all the loose dirt and dust.