



Frequently Asked Questions

What is FolkArt Milk Paint?

FolkArt Milk Paint is a non-toxic, durable, casein-based paint that can be used to create a variety of looks: everything from a distressed, aged finish to a smooth and sleek finish. FolkArt Milk Paint is the first milk paint on the market that is manufactured as a convenient, pre-mixed casein-based paint that will not spoil like powdered ready-to-mix milk paints. FolkArt Milk Paint will not fade over time either, nor will it chip or peel because it is formulated to be absorbed directly into the porous surface. FolkArt Milk Paint is known for its durability and beautiful ultra-matte sheen offering a velvety smooth finish.

What is casein?

Casein is a milk protein that enhances adhesion properties and often is used by artists, as a fast-drying, water-soluble medium. Historically, milk paints offered artists a water-based paint that could easily be made from milk with lime and a variety of earth pigments added for color. FolkArt Milk Paint is manufactured with casein that is incorporated into the paint without lime, providing modern-day DIY artists and makers a safe, non-toxic product.

On what types of surfaces can I use FolkArt Milk Paint?

FolkArt Milk Paint is best used as a brush-on paint that can be applied to surfaces such as (finished or unfinished) furniture, walls, metal, concrete and masonry.

How should I prepare my surfaces before painting with FolkArt Milk Paint?

- **Unfinished Wood** – FolkArt Milk Paint is best applied directly to unfinished, raw wood. T Sand any rough areas using a medium-to-fine grit sandpaper. Wipe with a tack cloth to remove sanding dust.
- **Finished Wood** – Finished wood surfaces would include previously painted or varnished surfaces. These surfaces are best cleaned with a household glass cleaner to remove dirt and grease and then brushed with a coat of FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer. Allow the primer to thoroughly dry (approximately four hours); then apply FolkArt Milk Paint.
- **Walls** – Prepare your walls first by cleaning them to remove dust or grease. Clean areas of chipped or peeling paint. Slightly sand the walls to allow for better paint adhesion if walls were previously painted with semi-gloss or gloss finishes.
- **Metal** – Wash all new metal surfaces in warm soapy water; allow to thoroughly dry. Moisten a paper towel or soft cloth with distilled white vinegar and wipe over surface; allow to dry. Brush on an application of FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer. Allow primer to thoroughly dry.
- **Concrete and Masonry** – Apply a coat of white vinegar (to neutralize lime), allow to dry, rinse, and then allow to dry thoroughly. NOTE: FolkArt Milk Paint is not recommended for concrete areas subject to foot traffic such as a patio. FolkArt Milk Paint decorated concrete and masonry surfaces should be kept as indoor only decorative surfaces.

Can I mix two FolkArt Milk Paint colors to achieve a new color or different value of the same color?

Yes. FolkArt Milk Paint is designed to be intermixable allowing an artisan to create colors to match any home décor project. To mix colors, simply pour a small amount of the lighter color into a mixing bowl. Begin adding the second or darker value color a small amount at a time into the mixing bowl. Stir to mix the two colors together using a paint stir stick or plastic spoon until desired color is achieved.

What is FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer and how is it used?

FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer is formulated as a multi-purpose primer, sealer and protective topcoat. It is a water-based, non-toxic bonding primer that acts as a primer on previously painted or varnished wood and metal surfaces. It can also be used as a topcoat to seal and protect a completed FolkArt Milk Paint painted project. When applied to a surface, FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer appears milky when wet, yet dries to a clear, flat finish. FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer can easily be cleaned from applicator tools using soap and water.

What supplies should I have on hand when working with FolkArt Milk Paint?

You should have your prepped project surface, desired shade of FolkArt Milk Paint, FolkArt Milk Paint Brushes, paper towels, craft knife and foam bowls. You should also make sure to wear old clothing and protective clothing, as FolkArt Milk Paint can penetrate clothing.

How are FolkArt Milk Paint Brushes different from any other brush?

FolkArt Milk Paint brushes are manufactured with 100% natural black hog bristle. Available in two 1 ¼" and 2" sizes, FolkArt Milk Paint brushes are created with flag-tip bristles which hold more paint as well as spread it more smoothly. FolkArt Milk Paint brush bristles are filbert shaped, creating "rounded corners" which reduce hard edges and brush marks.

Do I need to shake FolkArt Milk Paint before using?

Yes, shaking the FolkArt Milk Paint bottle before using will incorporate the paint (if any has settled).

How do I properly load my FolkArt Milk Paint Brush?

Whether using FolkArt Milk Paint directly on an unfinished surface or applying Folk Art Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer to a project surface, load a FolkArt Milk Paint brush by dipping into the prepared bowl of milk paint or bonding primer, then wipe the bristles along the inside of the bowl to remove excess paint/primer drips.

What is the best method used to apply FolkArt Milk Paint to my unfinished surface?

After properly loading a FolkArt Milk Paint brush, begin applying the milk paint by brushing the surface using long, smooth brush strokes. FolkArt Milk Paint is developed to immediately penetrate the surface like a stain, however it is a paint. Do not let milk paint puddle on the wood, brush it vigorously and work it to a thin film so that it spreads and absorbs uniformly onto the surface. Allow to dry approximately 30 minutes; sand surface smooth using fine grit sandpaper. Remove sanding dust and reapply milk paint. A minimum of two coats is recommended.

How should I apply FolkArt Milk Paint to a surface prepared with FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer?

After allowing FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer to thoroughly dry (approximately four hours), the surface can be painted with FolkArt Milk Paint. Follow the same paint application instructions as for painting on an unfinished surface.

How much coverage can I expect from a 6.8 fl. oz. bottle of FolkArt Milk Paint?

One bottle of FolkArt Milk Paint will cover approximately 16 square feet of surface.

What is the dry/cure time when creating with FolkArt Milk Paint?

FolkArt Milk Paint will dry within 30 minutes to an hour depending upon the chosen surface, how thick the paint has been applied, and how humid your work area is. It will take approximately 24 hours before it is totally cured to the surface.

Can I create any special effects with FolkArt Milk Paint?

Yes, FolkArt Milk Paint is versatile and can be used many ways. Apply a standalone color or use to create a distressed appearance. This versatile milk paint can also be thinned with water to achieve a washed look. By thinning the paint a soft color wash can be applied to the surface for just a hint of color while highlighting the natural wood grain.

Can FolkArt Milk Paint be used to stencil a design on my furniture?

Yes. FolkArt Milk Paint can be used when stenciling your milk-painted project.

What is the best stenciling technique to use when stenciling with FolkArt Milk Paint?

When stenciling with FolkArt Milk Paint, it is best to use a dry brush technique. Make sure your stencil brush is properly loaded and excess milk paint has been removed. To load the stencil brush, dab the bristles into a small puddle of FolkArt Milk Paint and remove most of the paint by dabbing a paper towel. Stencils can be taped or held in place. When stenciling, hold the stencil brush vertically, and keeping the flat portion of the bristles flat to the surface, touch the stencil and begin stenciling using a circular motion moving clockwise then counter-clockwise. NOTE: It is best to begin at the outer edges of the stencil design working toward the center. Stenciled designs can remain clean and crisp as stenciled or when dry sanded slightly to create an aged, distressed look.

How do I clean FolkArt Milk Paint from of my brushes and stencils?

FolkArt Milk Paint can be easily cleaned from used paint and stencil brushes while the bristles are still wet using soap and warm water. Wipe used stencils with paper towels or baby wipes immediately after each use.

Can FolkArt Milk Paint be used on outdoor surfaces?

No, FolkArt Milk Paint is formulated for indoor surfaces only.

Is FolkArt Milk Paint safe to use on surfaces children might use?

Yes, FolkArt Milk Paint is non-toxic, environmentally-friendly and considered safe to be used on children's furniture.

Will FolkArt Milk Paint stain my clothing?

FolkArt Milk Paint can penetrate your clothing the same as when working with acrylic paints; however, it can be washed out immediately while wet using FolkArt Brush Plus and water. It is suggested that while crafting with FolkArt Milk Paint, wear old or protective clothing.

What is FolkArt Milk Paint Finishing Oil?

FolkArt Milk Paint Finishing Oil will absorb directly into the pores of a raw or FolkArt Milk Paint decorated surface creating a velvety smooth finish. It also enhances the look of natural unfinished

wood. FolkArt Finishing Oil is non-toxic and can be cleaned up easily with soap and water. One 3.7 fl. oz. bottle will cover approximately 15 square feet.

Should I seal and protect my FolkArt Milk Paint project after it is dry?

Furniture decorated with FolkArt Milk Paint, if not sealed, can be damaged with water spots or moisture rings from drink glasses. It will also spot if wiped with water or washed. Decorative items like walls do not need to be sealed but any surface subject to spills should be sealed and protected. Milk-painted furniture can be protected with two thin applications of FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer.

How should I apply FolkArt Milk Paint Finishing Oil?

FolkArt Milk Paint Finishing Oil should be applied to a milk painted surface using a soft, lint-free cotton cloth which has been saturated with the finishing oil. Rub surface gently until the oil is absorbed, if necessary, wipe to remove excess. While oil is being absorbed, lightly wet sand using a fine grit (280 – 400 grit) sandpaper creating the velvety smooth finish. Surfaces that have been oiled will take approximately 30 days to fully dry and cure. FolkArt Milk Paint Finishing Oil can be applied to lightly used or decorative surfaces, however, heavily used surfaces should be protected with FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer.

How should I apply FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer to topcoat my completed project?

Simply load the FolkArt Milk Paint brush with the FolkArt Milk Paint Bonding Primer & Sealer then apply the sealer to your completed milk painted project using long, smooth brush strokes. While wet, you will notice FolkArt Bonding Primer & Sealer is milky yet it will dry to a clear, flat finish.

When is it advisable to use FolkArt Finishing Oil or FolkArt Bonding Primer & Sealer after completing a project painted with FolkArt Milk Paint?

Whether you use Finishing Oil or Bonding Primer & Sealer depends on the surface you're using.

- **FolkArt Finishing Oil** is best used on a surface that has been painted with FolkArt Milk Paint directly over raw, unfinished wood. FolkArt Finishing Oil will penetrate the layers of milk paint as well as into the unfinished wood surface. NOTE: The color of FolkArt Milk Paint painted surfaces will slightly darken and become rich in color after the finishing oil has been absorbed. If desired, test for any color changes in an inconspicuous place.
- **FolkArt Bonding Primer & Sealer** is best used on a surface has been previously finished either, painted or stained, and has been sealed with a varnish. It is recommended to use FolkArt Bonding Primer & Sealer over the surface, before painting, as well as after completing the project. NOTE: Be sure to allow ample dry time after applying the priming coat before painting and again after completing the project before applying the protective coat.

How should I clean my FolkArt Milk Paint project?

FolkArt Milk Paint projects finished with FolkArt Milk Paint Finishing Oil should be cleaned with a dry, dusting cloth. Projects protected with FolkArt Bonding Primer & Sealer can be wiped clean to remove dust using a slightly damp paper towel or soft cloth.