

## Learn More About It

### Choosing the Proper Brush or Roller

There are two things you need to know in order to select the right paintbrush for the job:

- 1) the surface you'll be painting and
- 2) the type of paint you'll be using.

Paintbrushes are made in a wide variety of sizes, from the smallest 1/2-inch to the largest 6-inch. You'll probably need two brushes for every project—a small one for painting trim or detailed areas and a large one for covering surfaces quickly. Just choose the sizes you feel comfortable using, that will "fit" your surface nicely.



#### Use the largest brush suitable for the surface.

You'll need small brushes for narrow surfaces, but larger brushes carry more paint so there's less dipping to refill and fewer strokes to cover the surface. Reduce your effort by choosing the largest suitable brush.

Now for the type of paint you'll be using. When it comes to paintbrushes, paint is divided into two categories. In the first category you have water-based coatings. The paint can label will have one or a combination of these words: latex, acrylic, waterborne, or water-based. The second category is oil-based coatings. Look for these words on the can label: alkyd, oil, solvent-borne, or oil-based.

For water-based coatings, choose a nylon/polyester (synthetic) brush. Nylon/polyester brushes are durable so they're great for painting rough surfaces, they maintain their stiffness in humid painting conditions, and they clean the easiest. Actually, you can't go wrong with a professional nylon/polyester brush like the Wooster [Ultra/Pro®](#) or the high-quality [Golden Glo®](#) because they can be used with all paints, water-based or oil-based.

Paintbrush  
bristle  
comes  
from long-  
haired  
Chinese  
hogs.



However, for oil-based coatings your best choice is a natural bristle brush like the [Yachtsman®](#) or [Amber Fong™](#) from Wooster. Natural bristle has unique properties that are difficult to duplicate synthetically. Bristle comes in many different lengths and thicknesses to produce a brush that holds a lot of paint. Bristle also has the softest tips for the smoothest finish.

Then why not always use a bristle brush? Like our hair, bristle absorbs water. You shouldn't use a natural bristle brush in water-based paints because you'll end up with a floppy mop that won't paint very well. Also, rough surfaces will quickly wear out a bristle brush. So, if you're using a water-based coating or painting a large rough surface, choose a synthetic brush instead.