

Not all painting projects are the same. The type of painter's tape you should use, and how you prep for painting will vary from room to room and surface to surface. Textured ceilings, bathrooms and accent walls present unique challenges but with these tips, your finished project will look like it was done by a pro.



## Mask Like a Pro

Good masking is the key to sharp, professional paint lines and an overall neat, finished look. A great paint job begins with knowing which tape to use, how to mask properly and how to remove the tape. It also can help avoid rework by preventing paint drips, spatters and accidental brush strokes.

### Step-By-Step Guide:

1



Make sure you're using the best tape for the job. Check out our Tape Selector Chart to see which ScotchBlue<sup>TM</sup> Painter's Tape best suits your project.

2



Clean the surface, and make sure it is dry and dust-free. This will help the tape stick properly.

3



Pull tape off the roll a few feet at a time. Lay it onto surface depressions. Press down as you go. Avoid stretching the tape; this can cause it to lift up or break.

4



Secure the tape by pressing the edge down with a flexible putty knife or 5-in-1 tool. If the surface is textured, seal the edge of the tape with the existing base color of the wall. This will prevent the new paint color from seeping under the tape.

5



Remove the tape at a 45-degree angle, and at a moderate speed. Just pull the tape back on itself. If adhesive sticks to the surface, try a 90-degree angle. If paint is pulling up with the tape, try scoring the edge of the tape with a razor blade before pulling further.

(Steps continued on next page)

## Importance of Scoring

A little patience and preparation will help you avoid peeling away paint when you take off your painter's tape.

1



Any latex paint can lift off the surface if you try to remove the tape before the paint is thoroughly dry (see paint manufacturer dry times on can).

2



For clean removal, use a flexible putty knife or 5-in-1 tool and score along the edge of the tape. This will help break the paint bond between the wall and tape edge.

Taking your time, lift up the painter's tape at a 45 degree angle.

You'll get a sharp, clean line and a professional looking paint job!

## Slightly Textured Surface

Prevent paint bleeding on slightly textured surfaces using this simple technique.

1



Start by applying ScotchBlue™ Painter's Tape Delicate Surface, to the edge of the wall you will not be painting. Apply the tape where it meets the accent wall.

2



Paint over the tape with the existing wall color (the color that's on your non-accent wall) using a dry brush to seal it into place. Once dry, you're ready to paint your accent wall.

3



Paint your accent wall.

5



When paint is dry (approximately 24 hours), score the tape.

Peel off painter's tape at an angle, revealing a perfect accent wall with super sharp paint lines.

(Steps continued on next page)

## Textured Surface

Nobody wants over-splash when painting — here's how to avoid getting paint where you don't want it. This tip is particularly useful when you are masking textured ceilings or walls.

1



The secret to preventing painting mistakes on textured surfaces is to use a thin strip of caulking to seal your tape. Start by applying ScotchBlue<sup>TM</sup> Painter's Tape Original Multi-Surface directly to the ceiling.

2



Dispense a small amount of caulk (less than 1/8"), and apply to the edge of the tape along the top of the wall. Allow it to dry for a few minutes.

3



Paint your walls.

4



Wait about 24 hours for the paint to dry and then score the tape.

5



Gently peel away the tape at an angle (it's okay for some caulking to remain). Admire your work.

## Painting Next to Tiles

Painting rooms with tile, such as bathrooms, is easier than you think. Just follow these tips to ensure you get into the tile grooves.

1



Carefully apply ScotchBlue<sup>TM</sup> Painter's Tape Original Multi-Surface along tiles — pressing it down a little at a time.

2



Go back and press down again, making sure the tape gets into the grooves. This will help ensure that the tape adheres properly to prevent paint bleed.

3



Now you're ready to paint!




(Steps continued on next page)



## Tape Selector Chart

A successful painting project requires the right tools, including a tape designed for your project. ScotchBlue™ Painter's Tape Delicate Surface enables precise paint lines when used on smooth surfaces. ScotchBlue™ Painter's Tape Original Multi-Surface works well on light textured surfaces. Both tapes are UV-resistant and can be used in direct sunlight.

**To use the chart:** Determine the surface texture of the area you will be masking, not painting. When masking rough surfaces, consider using Scotch® Masking Tape.

AREA YOU NEED TO MASK ↓	ScotchBlue™ Original Multi-Surface 	ScotchBlue™ Advanced Multi-Surface 	ScotchBlue™ Delicate Surface 
<b>Walls &amp; Ceilings</b>			
Freshly Painted Non-Textured Surfaces	NR	NR	*
Walls & Ceilings			
-Heavy Texture*	*	TEST	NR
-Light Texture	*	TEST	TEST
-Smooth Texture	TEST	*	*
Ceiling Tiles & Grids	NR	NR	*
Paneling	NR	NR	*
Vinyl Coated Wallpaper, Borders	NR	NR	*
<b>Baseboards, Window &amp; Door Trim</b>			
Freshly Painted Non-Textured Surfaces	NR	NR	*
Wood Trim			
-Heavy Grain (oak, hickory)	*	*	TEST
-Smooth Grain (birch, ash, maple)	TEST	*	*
Vinyl, Aluminum, Metal Trim	*	*	*
<b>Floors</b>			
Freshly Painted Non-Textured Surfaces	NR	NR	*
Solid Hardwood			
-Finished, Engineered Hardwood	NR	NR	*
-Unfinished	*	TEST	NR
Carpet	*	TEST	NR
Marble, Slate, Stone, Concrete	*	*	TEST
Vinyl, Laminate	TEST	TEST	*
<b>Other Interior Surfaces</b>			
Freshly Painted Non-Textured Surfaces	NR	NR	*
Cabinets			
-Heavy Grain (oak, hickory)	*	*	TEST
-Smooth Grain (birch, ash, maple)	TEST	*	*
-Paper or Veneer Laminates	NR	NR	*
Countertops, Tile, Grout, Caulk	*	*	TEST
Hardware, Glass, Porcelain	*	*	*
<b>Other Exterior Surfaces</b>			
Freshly Painted Non-Textured Surfaces	NR	NR	*
Brick, Block, Stone, Concrete	*	*	NR
Hardware, Glass	*	*	TEST
Vinyl, Aluminum, Metal Trim	*	*	TEST
Vinyl Siding, Clapboard (non-rough)	*	*	TEST
Wood Siding (rough & non-rough)	*	*	TEST

\* = Recommended  
 TEST = Test compatibility before use as results may vary.  
 NR = Not Recommended

\* Learn more about masking on textured surfaces at [www.ScotchBlue.com](http://www.ScotchBlue.com)  
 \*\* None of the ScotchBlue™ Painter's Tapes are recommended for use on laquered surfaces

Minimum 10%  
 Post-Consumer Fiber

Construction and Home  
 Improvement Markets Division

3M Center, Building 223-4S-02  
 St. Paul, MN 55144-1000  
 1-800-494-3552  
[www.ScotchBlue.com](http://www.ScotchBlue.com)

3M, ScotchBlue, the Plaid Design and the BLUE color of the tape are trademarks of 3M.

Printed in U.S.A.  
 ©3M 2010 70-0713-3539-4

