



DIY
Your Own
Kitchen
Cabinets

The 3-Step Prep Checklist



Hayward
House
Furniture



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Furniture

The Pro Finisher's 3-Step Prep Checklist (The Secret to Paint That Never Peels)

STOP Wasting Time on Paint That Peels.

You can buy the most expensive paint on the market, but if you skip these three foundational steps, your beautiful new finish will fail in six months. This quick checklist is what I use on every professional refinishing job to guarantee lifelong adhesion.

Follow this before you even open a can of primer!

The Checklist

Step 1: Clean & Degrease (Removing the Invisible Enemy)

- Purpose: Grease, oil, and furniture polish are invisible enemies that break the paint bond.
- Action List
 - ☐ Remove all hardware (handles, hinges, etc.).
 - ☐ Use a high-quality degreaser (Selleys Sugar Soap recommended).
 - ☐ Wipe down every surface TWICE - including corners and edges.
 - ☐ Finish with a light spray of water and wipe down with a microfibre cloth to dry.
 - ☐ Ensure the surface is clean and ready to prime with no cleaning product residue remaining.

Step 2: Scuff Sand (Creating good adhesion)

- Purpose: Sanding (or scuffing) isn't about removing the finish; it's about creating "tooth" for the primer to physically bond to.
- Action List
 - ☐ Use a fine-grit sandpaper (180-220 grit) and a sanding block or orbital sander.
 - ☐ Scuff every surface until the shine is completely dull. No glossy spots left!
 - ☐ Focus on common touch points (cabinet doors around the handle).
 - ☐ Warning: Do NOT skip this step, especially on laminate or glossy surfaces.

Step 3: Prime for paint

- Purpose: Dust and wood tannins will ruin your finish and colour.
- This final step seals & ensures suitable surface area for paint adhesion.
- Action List
 - ☐ Vacuum all sanding dust off the surfaces.
 - ☐ Use a Tack Cloth to wipe down all surfaces immediately before priming.

- [] Use a stain-blocking primer (like shellac if project is super heavy on tannins. Alternatively, I predominantly use Dulux PRECISION, Maximum Strength Adhesion Primer which can be used on a multitude of substrates.
- Refer to directions on the product for more information.

The Final Call-to-Action

You Did the Prep. Now Get the PERFECT Finish.

- Prep is 80% of the job, but painting technique is what takes your finish from 'DIY' to 'Professional'. Whether you choose to use a brush and roller or spray your projects, once the prep has been completed you can safely move to painting your project and watch it quickly transform.

Paint is a powerful transformative medium!

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Who We Work With

I work with Real Estate agents, Property managers, Mums & Dads, Homeowners, DIY'ers, Beginners, House Flippers and YOU!

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