



Artex Manufacturing Company

5894 Blackwelder St. Culver City CA 90232
310 204-6900 FAX 310 838-2094

Open Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00 Pacific Time
<http://www.novacolorpaint.com/>

Email: sales@novacolorpaint.com/

Tips for Painting an Exterior Mural using Acrylic Paint

There are three main factors affecting the life of an acrylic mural.

The mural location:

The enemies of a mural are sunlight and moisture. North and East facing murals will last longer than West or South facing murals. Murals should not be painted on retaining walls that have earth behind them as moisture can seep through and may lift the paint or leave mineral deposits.

Proper surface preparation:

Proper surface preparation before you begin painting is the most important factor in insuring a long lasting mural, painting or decorative finish. The surface must be clean and free from any loose or flaking paint. To prepare a previously painted surface, sand or wire brush as needed. Wash with a solution of trisodium phosphate (available at paint stores), rinse and allow to dry. If the wall has shiny paint on it or has been painted with an oil-based paint, be sure to sand thoroughly before priming. Cement, masonry or wood should be primed with one or two coats of acrylic gesso (such as Nova Color Gesso #200) or with a high quality water-based primer. Do not prime with an oil-based paint or oil-based primer unless the manufacturer specifies that it is suitable for use with water-based paints.

The paint must be formulated for exterior use:

Paint intended for exterior use is formulated differently than artists', craft or interior paint.

The acrylic resin in the paint formula is a major factor making the paint suitable for use outdoors. The type of acrylic resin used in paint formulation varies depending of the intended use of the paint. Some fine artists' paint may use a good quality resin but this resin may not be suitable outdoors. These paints may be too soft, weak or water sensitive for use outdoors. Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint is made with a tough 100% acrylic resin durable for outdoor use.

In addition to the **type of resin** used in the paint, the **amount or percentage of resin** used in the paint formula is important. As a rule, less expensive paints such as low cost house paints or craft paints have only the minimum amount of resin required to make them serviceable. House paint or craft paint is often made with a less expensive and less durable latex or vinyl-latex resin. House paints are designed to last 5-10 years before recoating. With age these paints may become thin, tend to wash off or appear chalky. If you wish to economize by using house paint, use the best quality paint containing

100% acrylic resin.

To minimize color fading due to sunlight you must be alert to the **lightfastness rating** of the pigment used in the paint. Some pigments fade more readily than others. Check your jars or color chart for the lightfastness rating of the colors you plan to use. Lightfastness I is the best rating. Lightfastness III should not be used in direct sunlight.

Pigment and lightfastness information is usually not indicated on house paints or craft paints. The color most likely to fade in less expensive paints is red.

Occasionally colors can fade or react to conditions other than sunlight. New stucco or plaster should be thoroughly cured before painting. Some colors, such as cadmium colors, are very lightfast but can fade in damp or acid rain conditions. A clear topcoat designed for exterior use will help protect against dampness as well as add an extra layer of protection against wear and tear.

All materials used in the mural should be researched before they are used. Materials designed for the construction industry or craft use may not be suitable.

Ideally, painting should be done in a temperature range of 65-85 degrees F. Avoid painting in misty or rainy weather. Painting should not be done late in the day if the night may be misty or freezing before the paint dries.

Adding too much water to the paint can affect the adhesion and shorten the life of your mural. In general, do not add more than 10% water to Nova Color or 5% to house paint.

About Nova Color Artists' Acrylic Paint

We have been making Nova Color Artists Acrylic Paint since the 1960's. We use a tough, durable, 100% acrylic resin suitable for use outdoors. All paints are labeled with the lightfastness rating.

Nova Color is sold factory direct to the muralist and is available in pints, quarts, gallons and 5-gallon pails. Nova Color is shipped to the USA and Canada. Please call, write or email for a free color chart and price list.

**NOVA[®]
COLOR**

Artex Manufacturing Company

5894 Blackwelder St. Culver City CA 90232
310 204-6900 FAX 310 838-2094

Open Monday-Friday 8:30-5:00 Pacific Time
<http://www.novacolorpaint.com/>

Email: sales@novacolorpaint.com/

10-03