

How to paint chalkboard drawers

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Transform your old drawers with chalkboard paint.

This chest of drawers had a lot going for it, not least its impressive proportions, but the white finish was looking a little tired. We transformed the drawers into a fabulous piece for the [dining room](#) - thank to some fabulous chalkboard paint. Thanks to an ever-expanding colour palette, chalkboard paint is becoming a quick, easy and effective way to give a tired piece of furniture a new lease of life.

[Chalkboard paint](#) shed its dusty classroom reputation ages ago, suddenly making an appearance on walls in all the best kitchens. The dusky colours and extremely matt finish of the new-style acrylic chalkboard paints can lift an ordinary piece to a higher plane, while there's something timeless and enduring about old-style chalkboard paint that strikes a very contemporary note. Plus, it means you, and the kids, can draw on the furniture – and any solution that's both chic and amusing is a winner.

Labelling the drawers adds a layer of quirky detail that brings the whole piece together. To achieve strong, bright letters that don't smudge easily, wipe the surface with a damp cloth just before you write, then leave to dry naturally for cute labels that make it easy to delegate setting the table.

What you will need

- Chalkboard paint (we used 'Midnight Shadow' - an inky blue shade- from [Porter's Paints](#));
- Furniture

*When using acrylic-based chalkboard paint, you can clean brushes and equipment in cold, running water. Oil-based chalkboard paint will require mineral turps to clean brushes and equipment.

Step-by-step

The method for preparing and painting each item is essentially the same, though individual pieces may require more preparation and/or a further coat of paint. Remove any loose or peeling wood from the surface to be painted and sand any rough spots smooth. Unscrew any handles from the piece and store. Use a sugar soap solution to remove all dirt, dust, grease and grime from the surface. Wipe with a dry cloth, leave to dry completely and then use the tape to mask any areas not to be painted.

2.

Apply a coat of undercoat or primer to the surface to be painted and leave to dry. When the undercoat is completely dry (check the tin for the recommended drying time if you're unsure) you can apply the first coat of chalkboard paint. To achieve the best finish, apply the first coat in two stages, first painting against the grain (usually horizontally) to cover the surface, then topping up your brush and working in smooth strokes with the grain (usually vertically) for an even finish.

3.

Leave the first coat to dry completely, checking the recommended period of time on the tin, and then apply the second coat in the same fashion. Once the second coat is dry to touch, reattach any handles removed prior to painting.

4.

Leave the final coat to dry for at least 48 hours before using chalk on the surface - longer if you apply more than two coats. To keep the piece clean, use a damp rag to wipe chalk and dust from the surface when required.

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