

SAKS & HART

APPLYING AUTENTICO VENICE LIME PAINT IN BAGNATO STYLE

Italy..walking through the streets of Rome, Venice, Florence, Sienna and enjoying those remarkable painted buildings. Italians master the art of lime painting. Not only outside but also interior painting is done using this very old technique. The cherry on the cake is of course Michelangelo's lime paintings on the ceiling of Vatican's Sistine Chapel. It took four years (1508-1512) to complete this piece of art and it is obviously one of the most famous of his monumental paintings.

However, your first name doesn't have to be Michelangelo to be creative with lime paint and it certainly will not take you four years to finish your own project.

In fact, painting with lime paint is pretty straight forward and if you live by certain rules you will be rewarded.

Our Venice's lime paint is available in more than 100 colours and you definitely will find a colour to match your design scheme. Lime paint is a breathable paint, antibacterial and great to use in listed buildings, hotels and restaurants. But also in children's bedrooms. With our comprehensive colour palette our lime paint excels in contemporary architecture to create a stunning feature wall as well.

Lime paint is a little alkali when applying, so don't forget to wear safety gloves and goggles when starting your paint job.

Bagnato style?

Sure! Bagnato is Italian and means 'wet', 'damp' or 'soaked'. We prefer 'damp' because that is what we need when we proceed with our project.

What do I need?

First of all an interior wall. Use one in your own home and not in the Vatican because they're all listed there. Measure the length and the height and find out how many square metres you need to cover. Venice covers roughly 8 square metres per litre per coat. You need two coats of Venice to finish your project.

Decide if you need to apply a primer coat first. Lime paint needs to be applied on a mineral surface, like bricks or bare plaster. If your wall has been painted

before, we certainly recommend applying a primer coat first. Best to use is our Vintage chalk paint, colour white. In case of doubt or you just want to make sure, use a primer coat. This forms a perfect base for lime paint and applying a primer coat will prevent uneven suction of the wall.

When using a primer coat of Vintage chalk paint, bear in mind that Vintage chalk paint covers up to 13 square meters per litre! Apply the primer coat with a roller or a wide brush.

When you are happy with the state of the wall, hit the wall with Venice. Use it straight from the pot, it should look like a full fat yoghurt. Stir well before starting to make sure all pigmentation has been well included.

NEVER use a roller! ALWAYS use a wide long haired brush (at least 4" wide). This will create the finish you're after.

Here comes trick 1:

ALWAYS work wet in wet.

Do NOT frame the wall first (meaning you would like to do the top/bottom and side edges of the wall first and then fill the frame). The frame will dry before you can fill the rest and this will remain visible.

So, forget the standard painting rules and work from the top of the wall down in long even strokes. If your wall is high and you are not a 6'5" you may need to stop somewhere in the middle, gasping and finishing your stroke down.

That's no problem as long as you work wet in wet. So as soon as your first strokes on the wall are done, get yourself together and make sure you begin the next strokes when the first strokes are still wet.

Before you know it your wall is covered with the first coat. When still wet, the lime paint looks a lot darker than you expect. Don't worry, it's normal and it will dry to the desired colour.

Phew, leave it to dry for 8 hours

Morning, time for the second coat

Here comes trick 2:

We made a deal to do it bagnato style, didn't we? Ok, let's go then. Search for a plant sprayer and fill it with water.

Spray the entire wall with water. Do not make it soaking wet, just damp. That is bagnato!

Do not let it dry, you should start your second coat while the wall is still damp. We always spray the wall again on the part of the wall we start with our second coat. Start painting again straight from the pot. When you notice that the wall is drying out sooner than expected, spray again but don't hit the new painted coat (you might, but that's another technique). Just use the same way of applying as you first coat.

You'll be ready before you know it!

Venice mixture.jpg

Let it dry again for 8 hours and that's it. If you're brave put some clear wax on the wall to enhance the structure and colour depth. But that isn't a must, you can also leave it as it is or put our sealer on it to make your wall more water repellent (in kitchens/bathrooms).

You can also use two adjacent colours – A dark one (like Nutmeg) as a first coat and a lighter one (like Linen) as a second coat. Finish with wax and call yourself Michelangelo or Michelangela. He certainly wouldn't mind!