

## **Step-By-Step Application**

### **Preparing to Paint a Room**

Meticulous preparation is what distinguishes the best paint jobs from the average ones. In fact, painters often say that preparing a room for painting is the most important step and takes much more time than the actual painting. Here's how to prepare a room for painting.

**Step 1** Cover or remove furniture and light fixtures. Remove hardware where possible, including sash locks, switch covers and receptacle plates. Remove doors and store them in an adjoining room.

**Step 2** Protect hard floors with rosin-paper. Protect carpet with 4-mil plastic and tarps. Rosin-paper should be secured with painter's masking tape to prevent it from shifting.

**Step 3** Mask off hardware that can't be removed. Tape over light switches and receptacles. Protect any woodwork that should not be painted.

**Step 4** Repair damaged wall and ceiling surfaces. Sand the repair smooth.

**Step 5** Lightly sand the surface of any trim that will be painted.

**Step 6** Vacuum all walls, ceilings, and trim to remove dust. It is particularly important to remove dust from trim that has been sanded.

**Step 7** Spot prime any wall surface that has been repaired. Prime all bare wood.

**Step 8** When the primer is dry, caulk the joints between trim and wall surfaces. Some painters skip this step if the joint between trim and wall is tight.