

# Bargains available on mix-ups, mis-tints

BY NICOLE TSONG  
Seattle Times staff reporter

Paint is expensive. We've probably all dropped \$30 or more for one gallon of paint tinted that perfect color.

But savvy home shoppers with a little flexibility in their color scheme still can brighten up a room on a budget. You just have to know where to look.

At Bellevue Paint and Decorating, custom-tinted paint goes for \$25 to \$40 a gallon.

But those who don't care if the color is rust, magenta or lime green can dig through the bargain bin and pay \$30 for six gallons instead.

The bargain bin holds mis-tints, or paint mix-ups. They come from shoppers who don't like the paint they picked, tinting mistakes by employees or custom paint that was never picked up. The store does not take back tinted paint.

The result is a boon for bargain shoppers. At Bellevue Paint, you pay \$5 a gallon for a mis-tint or \$1 a quart.

At the home-improvement store Lowe's, computers mix the paint, so there are fewer tinting



FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

BRUSHING UP YOUR HOUSE? Consider shopping for discount paints.

errors. But if a customer doesn't like the color, the paint is sold at a discount, according to spokeswoman Adaugo Nwakamma. The average price for that paint is \$5 a gallon and \$2 a quart.

Not all stores make discount paints easy to find.

At Sherwin-Williams in Ballard,

shoppers have to ask for the discounted paint kept in the back, a manager there said. They cost \$5 a gallon.

The Home Depot once was another destination for discount paint, but as of June 6 stopped taking returns on custom orders and no longer has discounted gal-

## RESOURCES

**Bellevue Paint and Decorating:** 10600 Main St. Bellevue, 425-454-7509; 2221 140th Ave. N.E. Bellevue, 425-641-7711; and 612 228th Ave. N.E., Sammamish, 425-836-5484.

**Lowe's:** For a list of stores, go to [www.lawes.com](http://www.lawes.com)

**Sherwin-Williams:** 1436 Northwest Leary Way, 206-789-5190

lons, a spokeswoman said.

Be sure to look for bargain bins at paint stores, or just ask for mis-tints that could be hiding in the back.

Marked-down paint is a thrifty way to spruce up a room with colorful accents — that is, for people who can put up with a bit of hassle and maybe a slightly whimsical shade of purple on the bathroom wall.

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## Eco-friendly paints arrive in Seattle

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A Portland-based company that helps simplify the work it takes to pick an interior paint color — and is environmentally friendly to boot — will debut its paint in Seattle this summer.

YOLO Colorhouse's first paint collection will be available in three Rodda Paint stores by the beginning of August.

The paint from the 5-month-old company, founded by Janie Lowe and Virginia Young, has only been available in Oregon or online until now.

The company's Earth's Color Collection offers 40 colors with dreamy palette names like Air and Leaf. The paint goes for \$33 to \$35 a gallon. YOLO's poster-size paint swatches are also sure to appeal to the paint-obsessed. The swatches, sold for \$4.99, come with adhesive on the back, which make them easy to tack up on any wall for a test run.

The swatches can be moved all over the room, and once you're done, the company suggests reusing them as wrapping paper.

YOLO also does the thinking for you in its design kit, which makes a great housewarming gift. The kit includes 8 1/2-by-11 paint swatches of all 40 colors and costs \$80. Color-challenged shoppers will like the advice on the back of each swatch, which suggests where to use a particular hue.

For example, Clay .02, is a bright pumpkin color described as a "hot, vivacious, people magnet." It "evokes drama, activity," and is recommended for the dining room, kitchen, living room or wherever people gather.

The swatches in the design kit also list companion colors to help you figure out a color that could work as a trim or on the ceiling.

For more information, go to [www.yolocolorhouse.com](http://www.yolocolorhouse.com) or [www.roddapaint.com](http://www.roddapaint.com).

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YOLO COLORHOUSE

YOLO COLORHOUSE, a new Portland company, makes paint selection a snap with its poster-sized color swatches. The environmentally responsible paint costs \$33-\$35 a gallon.

## product briefs



RUBBERMAID

THE PAINT BUDDY TOUCH-UP TOOL stores paint for quick touch-ups.

### PAINT BUDDY MAKES TOUCH-UPS A SNAP

Paint touch-ups are supposed to be a hassle. A time-consuming ordeal. Right?

No, says Rubbermaid, maker of the new Paint Buddy Touch-Up Tool, which allows homeowners to store paint and then perform quick and easy touch-ups of scuffs on walls.

Users pour their leftover paint into the tool, where it stays fresh. Then, to use it, they simply shake it a few times, open the air-lock valve to let paint flow onto the all-surface roller, then paint.

Paint Buddy sells for \$10.99 at home, paint and hardware stores. For more information, go to [www.paintbuddy.com](http://www.paintbuddy.com).

### DROPCLOTHS SHORTEN PREP TIME

We understand that prepping is the most important part of any paint job, but does it also have to be so time-consuming? Scotch-Blue, the 3M division known for its blue painter's tape, is aiming to quicken our prep time with its Pre-Taped Drop Cloths.

Adhere the blue tape to the baseboard or flooring you want to protect and then unroll the disposable plastic film, which comes in two widths and three sizes of rolls. About \$11 at most hardware and home-improvement stores.

### TRY GRAY TINTS FOR BETTER PRIMER

Experienced painters know tinted primer under paint results in a better-looking, longer-lasting finish, especially when you're making a dramatic color change.

Glidden Paints has introduced primers in nine shades of gray designed to provide more coverage than tinting, prevent streaking and reduce the need to paint several coats. Available at The Home Depot and online at [www.glidden.com](http://www.glidden.com).

Compiled from The Baltimore Sun and The Washington Post