

FIREPLACE

Makeover

USING PAINT

Supplies

- Interior house paint works best for the main coat. The finish is optional, however, semi-gloss makes it easier to clean. It will take about a gallon to do a normal full sized fireplace.
- Small bottles of acrylic craft paint can be used for the accent color and work great! Colored glaze could also be used.
- 1 Quart water based polyurethane. Optional, but putting a quick coat of this over just the face of the bricks when finished assures that the paint doesn't come off easily.
- Cleaning brush
- A regular bristle paint brush
- A paper bag



Choosing Colors

You will use at least two colors but you can use more if desired. If you use small bottles of craft paint for the brick color your choices are endless! Decide if you want darker grout with lighter stones or lighter grout with darker stones. Also decide if you want another color mixed in to give it more character, though it's not necessary. This is entirely a personal preference.

A Few Other Things

If your fireplace has a solid smooth stone mantle above or below it that you want to paint as well, ensure that this surface receives an extra coat or two of the polyurethane. Items and people will be on and off of these surfaces regularly and the paint will simply peel if not coated properly.

Stones Instead of Bricks?

Use the same technique and work from the outer edge of the stones towards the middle, leaving varying shades. This can also be done on faux rock walls.

Inside the Fireplace

Try painting it with a high temperature paint prior to painting the exterior of the fireplace. This way, if you spray outside of the inset you can simply cover it up with your new fireplace finish. NEVER USE REGULAR PAINT INSIDE A FIREPLACE.



Instructions

Testing your colors on a practice brick is a good idea before starting on your actual fireplace.

Step 1: Surface Prep.

Prep the surface by cleaning it thoroughly with a brush. Unpainted brick can be very porous and can collect hair and dust easily. Remove as much debris as possible from surface of bricks and between grout.



Step 2: Solid Base Coat.

Paint the entire fireplace the color you chose for the grout, preferably using an interior house paint. Be sure to get in between all the bricks. Since unpainted bricks and stone tend to be very porous, it may take more paint than you might think, so have about a gallon. Allow it to dry.

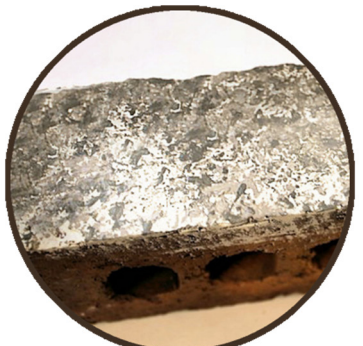


Step 3: Brick Color Layer.

You will now apply the solid color of your bricks. You can add some water to your acrylic paint to make it a little thinner if desired. Using a bunched up paper bag or even a rag, dab the paint on lightly and begin applying in a splotchy "dabbing" motion to the bricks. Be careful not to get the glaze in between the bricks as this ruins the natural effect.



As you go along make some areas of the brick or some entire bricks darker than others by applying more coats or even a different color. This gives a more natural effect. You can also make some bricks look more worn and weathered this way. Always apply with a dabbing motion in order to keep the bricks from looking painted.



Step 4: Seal.

To seal the paint to assure it doesn't come off easily, cover the face of each brick or stone with a fast drying water based polyurethane. Optional but a good idea.



Remember that it's just paint, so if you aren't happy with the initial turnout, simply grab more paint and continue until you've achieved the look you're after!