



FolkArt Home Decor Chalk, Wax, and Accessories Frequently Asked Questions

What is FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

FolkArt Home Decor Chalk is an acrylic-based paint that dries within minutes of application to an ultra-matte, chalk-like finish—making it ideal for painting furniture and various home decor accessories. The thick, self-leveling paint adheres to a variety of surfaces and can easily be applied in one coat. It can be painted in a single layer or multiple layers of color, which can then easily be distressed to reveal the original surface or a previous layer of color to create a distressed look. The paint was specially formulated to sand easily into a fine powder, so it does not clog sandpaper—prolonging the life of your distressing materials—and the powder brushes off your surface easily. The rich, highly pigmented paints provide long-lasting color and beauty to any home decor project.

What is the difference between chalkboard paint and FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

Chalkboard paint, when applied to a variety of surfaces, will create a writable chalkboard surface; FolkArt Home Decor Chalk is an acrylic paint that dries to an ultra-matte, chalk-like finish.

What is the difference between FolkArt Acrylic paint and FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

FolkArt Acrylic paint is a premium, artists' quality acrylic paint with superior hide and a smooth, creamy consistency—perfect for most art techniques such as brush stroke work, blending and highlighting, or stenciling. FolkArt Acrylic paint dries to a durable matte sheen. FolkArt Home Decor Chalk is a high-quality paint perfect for painting and distressing furniture and home decor accessories that dries to an ultra-matte, chalk-like finish.

On what types of surfaces can I use FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

FolkArt Home Decor Chalk can be applied to many different types of surfaces such as finished and unfinished wood, terra cotta, metal/tin, canvas, paper mache and plaster. It can be applied to ceramic and glass surfaces; however, the paint is not dishwasher-safe. Fabric surfaces can also be painted using FolkArt Home Decor Chalk, but the surface is not machine-washable. When decorating glass, ceramic and fabric surfaces, your project should be used as a decorative accessory only to be lightly cleaned using a damp cloth when needed.

Do I need to prepare my project surface before applying FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

With FolkArt Home Decor Chalk, your painting surface does not require significant preparation such as sanding, stripping, or priming; simply clean the surface using a household glass cleaner to remove dirt, dust, or oil as necessary. Glass and ceramic surfaces should be wiped down using rubbing alcohol.

Is FolkArt Home Decor Chalk suitable for outdoor use?

Projects painted with only FolkArt Home Decor Chalk are not suitable for outdoor use. To add protection for outdoor use, make sure to apply 2-3 coats of FolkArt Home Decor Varnish.

Is FolkArt Home Decor Chalk dishwasher-safe or machine-washable?

No, surfaces painted with FolkArt Home Decor Chalk should only be washed by hand and not be placed in the dishwasher or the washing machine.

How many sizes of FolkArt Home Decor Chalk are available?

FolkArt Home Decor Chalk comes in a range of sizes: 2 oz., 8 oz., 16 oz., and 32 oz.

How many colors of FolkArt Home Decor Chalk are available?

Currently, FolkArt Home Decor Chalk is available in 41 colors.

Up to how much paint coverage does one 8 fl. oz. bottle of FolkArt Home Decor Chalk provide?

FolkArt Home Decor Chalk will cover 1-2 sq. ft. per ounce, depending on thickness of application. One 8 fl. oz. bottle of paint will cover up to 16 sq. ft.

Do I need to shake or stir FolkArt Home Decor Chalk before using?

Yes, upon opening the bottle, stir well to fully incorporate the paint. Paint can be used directly from bottle or by pouring a small amount onto a foam plate as a palette.

Is it normal for my FolkArt Home Decor Chalk to have clumps in it?

Yes, over time, that is perfectly natural. As air becomes trapped in the top portion of the paint bottle (after it has been opened and paint used) a paint skin may form. With each paint use, it is best to remove the top skin before stirring the paint.

Can FolkArt Home Decor Chalk colors be mixed to create new colors or different values of the same color?

Yes, FolkArt Home Decor Chalk mixes easily to create any color you desire. Begin by mixing a small amount of the darker color into the lighter color first. Continue adding the darker color a little at a time until the desired color or value is achieved.

How resistant to fading is FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

Paints are rated on a light-fastness scale that runs from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most fade-resistant and 5 being the least. All FolkArt Home Decor Chalk colors are rated 1 or 2, which is Excellent or Very Good on this light-fastness scale.

Does FolkArt Home Decor Chalk contain latex?

No, Plaid does not use any natural rubber latex in any of its current paint products. Plaid's paint products are manufactured using synthetic acrylic resins.

What is the best paint application technique to be used with FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

FolkArt Home Decor Chalk is best applied to your project surface using a large bristle brush, working the paint into all crevices and corners as well as flat areas. The paint can be applied in a thin, smooth application or in a thick application allowing dimensional brush strokes. The FolkArt Home Decor Chalk Brush has a specialty bristle mix and brush shape to help hold the maximum amount of paint, making both applications described above quick and easy.

How long does FolkArt Home Decor Chalk take to dry?

On most surfaces, FolkArt Home Decor Chalk dries to the touch very quickly; however, two hours of dry time between coats is recommended. A hair dryer may be used to speed up drying time on thin coats of paint (a hair dryer used on a very thick coat of paint can cause cracking). It will take 24 hours before FolkArt Home Decor Chalk is fully cured to the surface of your project.

Do I need to seal my project? If so, should I use Clear Wax or Varnish?

Yes, FolkArt Home Decor Chalk is a porous paint that, if left unsealed, can receive scratches and look unappealing. Protect and seal your project surface with either FolkArt Home Decor Clear Wax (for indoor projects) or Varnish (for outdoor and heavily used project surfaces).

- Do not apply both the wax and the varnish to the same surface, as the wax will prevent the varnish from adhering to the paint.

What is FolkArt Home Decor Varnish?

FolkArt Home Decor Varnish is perfect for sealing and protecting outdoor and heavily used surfaces like table tops. This water-based, non-toxic varnish has an ultra-matte finish that can also be used on raw wood. It's formulated for both indoor and outdoor use.

How do I use FolkArt Home Decor Varnish?

To use, mix well by rolling bottle on table top. Do not shake! Using a soft bristle brush, apply to dry, clean surface. Allow varnish to dry to the touch between coats, approximately 15 minutes. Clean up while wet with soap and water.

- For heavily used items apply 2-3 coats, allowing dry time between coats.

- When applying FolkArt Home Decor Varnish, hold brush at a 30 degree angle to project surface so varnish flows evenly from brush.

What is FolkArt Home Decor Wax?

FolkArt Home Decor Wax is a brushable, water-based, non-toxic, paraffin-infused wax finish used to seal and protect surfaces painted with FolkArt Home Decor Chalk.

How many types of FolkArt Home Decor Wax exist?

FolkArt Home Decor Wax is currently available in three formulas: Clear Wax, White Wax, and Antiquing Wax. All waxes provide a protective velvety smooth finish for your projects. When properly applied, Clear Wax will protect your surface without adding color; White Wax will give your project a beautiful white-washed or faded finish. Antiquing Wax adds an antiqued, time-worn look with a warm chocolate-brown color.

Can I add paint to the FolkArt Home Decor Wax to create a custom wax color?

Yes, FolkArt Home Decor Chalk can be added to the waxes to create your own custom-colored waxes.

What is the best application technique to be used when applying FolkArt Home Decor Wax?

Allow paint to fully dry 24 hours before applying wax. Application is simple using a soft bristled brush or a soft, lint-free cloth. The FolkArt Home Decor Wax Brush was specifically designed to be flexible and work wax into the porous, ultra-matte paint. Load the brush with wax, dabbing off any excess. Then, apply a thin layer over the project surface in a smooth, even application, being careful not to apply too much wax. Clean brushes while wet with soap and water. Allow the waxed surface dry for approximately 24 hours, then buff to desired sheen using a soft, lint-free cloth. The longer you buff, the higher the sheen.

How long does it take FolkArt Home Decor Wax to dry?

Allow approximately 24 hours drying time once the wax has been applied to your project. After one day, your waxed surface is ready to be buffed.

What should I use to buff the FolkArt Home Decor wax?

When buffing, it is best to use a soft, lint-free cloth. Fold the cloth into a small section that can be held easily in one hand. If working on a large piece of furniture, you will need to open the buffing cloth and refold it to a clean spot several times.

Why do I need to buff the wax?

Waxed projects should be buffed to seal the paint onto the surface. The more you buff, the more you will raise the sheen of your finished project.

How do I use the FolkArt Home Decor White Wax and Antiquing Wax?

Before applying White Wax or Antiquing Wax, first apply a coat of FolkArt Home Decor Clear Wax, let dry, and buff. This layer of Clear Wax on the project surface between the

painted finish and the White Wax will allow you more flexibility of moving the colored waxes around. Then, apply the colored wax on top of the Clear Wax layer.

While the White Wax is still wet, quickly wipe excess wax off of surface, leaving a lighter color in intricate details, corners, and worn areas. Let dry overnight, then buff to desired sheen with a clean cloth. The Antiquing Wax can be applied the same way as the White Wax, leaving dark color in the recessed areas.

When finished, clean up while wet with soap and water. Keep waxed surfaces free of moisture and heavy use for seven days. For indoor use only. For additional protection on heavily used surfaces, apply Clear Wax every six to 12 months, or as needed.

My FolkArt Antiquing Wax is applied too heavy in one area, can I remove it?

While still working on your project before the wax has dried, you can remove areas of dark Antiquing Wax. Simply wet the area with Clear Wax and continue to wipe away the undesired excess.

How long does FolkArt Home Decor Wax take to cure?

FolkArt Home Decor waxed surfaces will be fully cured in seven days. Until then, keep waxed surfaces free of moisture and heavy use to allow enough time for the wax to fully cure.

Will I ever need to reapply FolkArt Home Decor Wax?

On well-used furniture items such as chairs, tables, or dressers, etc., it is a good idea to apply a fresh coat of Clear Wax once a year. It is not necessary to reapply wax to decorative or slightly used items.

Is it difficult to achieve the distressed look with FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

No! FolkArt Home Decor Chalk sands easily without “gumming up” the sandpaper. When sanding, you will notice a fine powder which is easily brushed or wiped away. When satisfied with the distressed look, simply wipe project surface with a damp paper towel or tack cloth to remove excess sanding dust.

How do I create a distressed look using FolkArt Home Decor Chalk?

Distressed areas are usually found on surface edges where it would appear to have been worn with time. There are multiple simple techniques to achieve a beautiful time-worn, distressed look:

- **Sanding or Dry Distressing:** Creating the distressed look is easy and can be achieved using one color application or a multiple color application. Once the top application of paint is dry, simply begin sanding to distress using the FolkArt Home Decor Sanding Block or medium grit sandpaper. After distressing a one color application, the base surface will appear. After distressing a multiple color application, the previously painted color will appear.

- **Wet Distressing:** Immediately after painting the topcoat of paint, use a damp FolkArt Home Decor Sponge to wipe away paint from areas where distressing is desired. After distressing a one color application, the base surface will appear. After distressing a multiple color application, the previously painted color will appear.
- **Scraping:** Great for heavy distressing. If desired, paint base color onto project and allow to dry fully. Apply petroleum jelly (or lip balm or white paraffin wax) as a mask to areas where heavy distressing is wanted. Paint second color over entire project, including masked areas. Allow to dry fully. Using FolkArt Home Decor Scrapers, gently scrape areas where petroleum jelly (or lip balm or white paraffin wax) was applied, removing the top layer of paint. For additional distressing, use the FolkArt Home Decor Sanding Block or sandpaper.
- **Dry Brushing:** Once the top application of paint is dry, load paint brush by dipping it into a puddle of paint. Off-load excess paint by dabbing brush onto a paper towel, achieving a dry brush. Using light pressure, apply paint to surface in long strokes, leaving uneven streaks of color.
- **Layering with a Block:** If desired, basecoat project using FolkArt Home Decor Chalk. Select two or more paint colors for layering. Pour small amount of first color onto a foam plate. Dip flat side of layering block into puddle of paint. Using light pressure, drag flat side of layering block across project surface in long sweeping motions, creating an uneven painted effect. Use little to no pressure when dragging the block; only gently skim project surface. Reload block and continue process until project is covered with the worn, uneven painted effect. Drag block across surface in multiple directions to create a more authentic, time-worn look. Allow to dry. Clean block while wet and repeat layering process with additional colors until desired look is achieved.

How do I use the FolkArt Home Decor Crackle?

FolkArt Home Decor Crackle is used to create crackled effects with the FolkArt Home Decor Chalk.

Before using, test the following technique on a small sample surface first. To use, basecoat surface with FolkArt Home Decor Chalk and allow to dry fully. Apply Crackle Medium evenly over surface using a paint brush, being careful not to over-stroke. Allow to dry thoroughly. Apply a contrasting top coat of FolkArt Home Decor Chalk in one even coat, being careful not to over-stroke. As the topcoat dries, the cracking will occur. A topcoat must be applied for cracking to occur. Do not use in humid conditions. Clean up while wet with soap and water.

- Thinner applications of topcoat create a fine crackle look.
- Thicker applications of topcoat create a wider, more weathered crackle look.
- Over-stroking FolkArt Home Decor Crackle and topcoat may create very fine cracks or no cracks.
- For indoor use only.

How do I use the FolkArt Home Decor Wood Tints?

The FolkArt Home Decor Wood Tints are non-toxic, water-based formulas that can be used on unsealed wood surfaces.

To use, first stir the bottle well. Apply the tint to your unsealed wood surface with a brush, sponge or soft cloth. Wait 30 seconds to allow the wood to absorb the wood tint before wiping off any excess wood tint with a clean, soft cloth. If desired, repeat to apply second coat. Continue until desired color is achieved. Clean up while wet with soap and water. For added protection, seal with FolkArt Home Decor Waxes or Varnish.

- Use with FolkArt Home Decor Masking to create a reverse tinted effect.
- Use over light FolkArt Home Decor Chalk colors for subtle antiquing effects before Chalk is sealed with Wax.
- Layer wood tint colors for different color effects.
- For indoor use only.

What is the FolkArt Home Decor Wood Tint Masking?

FolkArt Home Decor Wood Tint Masking acts as a wood tint resist to create a reverse-tinted effect. The masking works on unsealed wood surfaces and works best with the FolkArt Home Decor Wood Tints or similar water-based stains.

To use, apply FolkArt Home Decor Masking through stencil with stencil brush, spouncer, or roller, and allow to dry for 4 hours. The masking should be applied wherever you do not want the wood tint to adhere. Using a soft cloth, apply FolkArt Home Decor Wood Tint over entire project, including masked areas and allow to dry for 4 hours. Using a damp sponge or cloth, gently wipe off Masking and excess Wood Tint, leaving a reverse-tinted effect. Clean up while wet with soap and water. For added protection, seal with FolkArt Home Decor Waxes or Varnish.

- Create a layered color effect by first applying a basecoating your surface with a wood tint, and once fully dry, apply Masking, and then a second wood tint color.
- For a natural look, apply the masking to raw wood.
- When wood tint is applied through a stencil, and a stain is applied after, the natural wood will show through the stenciled areas.
- For indoor use only (unless sealed with the FolkArt Home Decor Varnish).
- NOTE: Wood Tint Masking does not work with FolkArt Home Decor Chalk.

Why is the FolkArt Home Decor Chalk Paint Brush unique?

The FolkArt Home Decor Chalk Paint Brush has a specialty bristle mix and brush shape to help hold the maximum amount of paint, making application quick and easy. To add texture and depth to your piece, liberally apply paint, stroking brush in multiple directions while applying paint. The look of depth can be further enhanced by using FolkArt Home Decor Waxes. If a smoother finish is desired, apply in one direction using long, even strokes.

Why is the FolkArt Home Decor Wax Brush unique?

The bristles of the FolkArt Home Decor Wax Brush has been specially designed to be flexible and work wax into the porous, ultra-matte finish of FolkArt Home Decor Chalk. The shape of the bristles is perfect for easy wax application on both intricate detailed areas and flat surfaces. For best results, load brush with a small amount of wax, dab off any excess, and using a pushing/circular motion to work the wax into the project. After 24 hours, the wax should be buffed with a clean, lint-free cloth. The Wax Brush is perfectly designed to be used as a stencil brush as well.

The FolkArt Home Decor Chalk Paint Brush and Wax Brush seem too large for my small project. Is there another option?

Yes! The FolkArt Home Decor Paint & Wax Brush Set is ideal for smaller projects and for getting into small, detailed areas. The Small Chalk Brush can be used in the same way as the Large Chalk Brush. The Small Wax Brush can be used in the same way as the Large Wax Brush. The Small Wax Brush can also be used as a stencil brush with the FolkArt Home Decor Chalk and FolkArt Home Decor Stencils.

The FolkArt Home Decor Chalk Paint Brushes seem too small for my extra-large project. Is there another option?

Yes! The 4" FolkArt Home Decor Wide Brush is great for covering large areas quickly. The specialty nylon bristles are designed to create a smooth finish.

Should I condition the FolkArt Home Decor Chalk Brush before using it the first time?

Yes, as with all new natural bristle brushes, the FolkArt Home Decor Chalk Brush should be conditioned prior to first-time use. To condition a natural bristle brush, begin with dry hands and run your fingers through the bristles, working the bristles back and forth. Secondly, fan the bristles to expose any loose ones and then tap on the table to remove loose bristles. Next, rinse the brush in warm water, then repeat the same steps. After conditioning the natural bristle brush, allow the bristles to dry thoroughly before use.

- You may experience some bristle loss while conditioning the brush; this is normal. The purpose of conditioning the brush is to expose and then remove loose bristles before painting.

How do I clean FolkArt Home Decor Chalk paint out of my brushes?

FolkArt Home Decor Chalk should be cleaned from your painting tools using soap and warm water immediately after each use.

How should I clean my brush after applying FolkArt Home Decor Wax?

Clean up is easy with soap and warm water. Work the brush bristles into soap lather then rinse well.

How do I use the FolkArt Home Decor Squeegee/Comb?

The Squeegee/Comb is a unique, multi-purpose tool for crafting home decor projects; the Squeegee can be used with dimensional paste to create raised stencil effects, and the Comb can be used with FolkArt Home Decor Chalk to create combed effects.

How do I use the FolkArt Home Decor Wood Layering Block?

To use the Wood Layering Block, first basecoat project using FolkArt Home Decor Chalk if desired. Next, select two or more paint colors for layering. Pour small amount of first color onto a foam plate. Then, Dip flat side of FolkArt Home Decor Layering Block into puddle of paint. After that, gently drag flat side of Layering Block across project surface in long sweeping motions, creating an uneven painted effect. Use very light pressure when dragging the block; only gently skim project surface. Reload block and continue process until project is covered with the worn, uneven painted effect. Drag block across surface in multiple directions to create a more authentic, time-worn look. Allow to dry. Clean block while wet with soap and water and repeat layering process with additional colors until desired look is achieved.

Can I embellish my painted and distressed FolkArt Home Decor Chalk project with stenciling?

Yes! Use FolkArt Home Decor Chalk through stencils to add detail or embellishment to your home decor project. The stenciled design can be left as is after stenciling or distressed using medium grit sandpaper. FolkArt offers a wide selection of beautiful stencils that were designed specifically for the size and motifs of home decor projects.

How should I clean my project surfaces after FolkArt Home Decor Wax has been applied?

Wipe project surfaces with a soft cloth moistened with warm water and mild soap to clean. Consumer furniture polishes are also acceptable for regular cleaning of waxed surfaces.