

CLASSIC COTTAGE ART & ANTIQUES

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Best Tips for Painting with Dixie Belle Chalk Mineral Paint – Note: Dixie Belle Paint has NO VOCs (horrible smell) so you can paint INDOORS with Dixie Belle Paint!!

1- **Clean piece** Thoroughly with Dixie Belle White Lightning Cleaner

(Extra Tip: mix White Lightning Cleaner in a gallon jug, then transfer to a spray bottle for easy application.]. (note: if painting raw wood, white lightning isn't necessary, just wipe with a damp cloth) Also, use a Scotch Brite Pad for extra scrubbing, then wipe with an old light color towel.

IMPORTANT Note: Neither Dixie Belle Paint nor Dixie Belle Slick Stick will stick to Solvent Based Waxes (Minwax, Annie Sloan, etc.) or build up of cleaners such as Pledge, Old English, etc.. Therefore, I recommend cleaning with Odorless Mineral Spirits (available at any hardware store & Walmart) prior to cleaning with White Lightning Cleaner

2- **RINSE** cleaner with plain water, then wipe off

NOTE: for extra dirty or greasy pieces, may need more than one cleaning.

Make sure piece is dry before painting.

3- **Extra Considerations:**

- Is my piece likely to **Bleed** (tannins/oils in the wood are pulled up by water-based products causing unsightly orange, yellow or pinkish spots, especially when using light colors. This may occur immediately or day, weeks or months after a piece is finished.
- To **PREVENT BLEED THROUGH:** Apply Dixie Belle BOSS as directed on jar. This product comes in clear, white, and gray. Once BOSS is dry, apply paint.
- Is my piece **Slick** (laminated, glass, tile, etc.) or does it have a really Glossy finish?
- If piece is Slick or has a Glossy finish – a) clean (as described above) then lightly sand to scuff up the finish, wipe off the dust and apply Dixie Belle SLICK STICK (a bonding primer designed for slick surfaces). Follow directions on the jar.

5. **Start Painting!**

6. Tips for a great finish:

- Use a **DAMP Brush** (not super wet, just damp) or a Misting Spray Bottle while painting to keep the paint slightly damp and moveable.
- Apply **THIN coats** (a thick coat will cause brush strokes, increase dry time, and use more product) Usually 2 Thin Coats will be all you need.
- Sand **LIGHTLY** with a 320grit or higher sand paper between coats for a smooth finish
- Use a **Good Brush** (Synthetic Brushes produce the least amount of brush strokes and create a smooth overall finish).
- Allow your piece to dry before applying a sealer. [SEE INFO ABOUT CURE TIME BELOW]

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7. For Extra Durability, **Seal** your piece

-Dixie Belle Chalk Mineral Paint does Not require a sealer, however, for extra durability, you may want to seal with one of these sealers:

- Clear Coat – Water based, Water Resistant, Easy to apply (comes in Flat, Gloss, & Satin)
- Gator Hite – Water Based, Water REPELLENT, Most Durable finish.
- Wax - Water Based, Apply Thin layer, wipe excess right away, buff after 30 min-1 hour)
(for heavily used pieces, Wax will need to be reapplied every 3-6 months)
- Easy Peasy Spray Wax – Water Based, great for hard to reach areas or touch ups.
- Hemp Seed Oil – OIL Based, Food Safe, Cures Quickly. Apply ONE THIN Coat, wipe excess, allow wood to soak up as much as it wants. After 12 hours, wipe any excess; may need to repeat this step.

Optional:

For an extra smooth finish, use 320 grit (or higher) Sand Paper or a brown paper bag to lightly (very gentle pressure) sand your piece before applying a sealer.

CURE TIME Water Based Products: Once you have finished your piece, USE GENTLY FOR 21-30 DAYS!! The water in your paint needs to evaporate to allow the paint to completely bond with your piece – this takes between 21 & 30 days, depending on your environment.

EXTRA TIPS

Clear Coats (including Gator Hide)

STIR, Don't shake!!! Stirring will introduce bubbles which can show up in your finish.

Don't Overwork the clear coat. Going back and forth will create streaks.

Gator Hide – consider using 1 coat of Satin Clear Before applying Gator Hide to reduce streak

Gator Hide application: I use a Sponge.

Extra Tip: put your sponge in a portion of an old nylon stocking or knee hi to prevent sponge pieces from getting into your finish. These pieces usually occur when your sponge comes in contact with a rough spot on your piece Or when the sponge starts to break down due to wear.

No Pain Gel Stain – This is an oil based product so be sure to work in a well ventilated area and properly dispose of your rags. This product takes longer to dry. Humid conditions may also lead to a longer dry time.

Thin coats are better than 1 thick coat. It's best to build up to the depth your want. Thick coats will take a Very Long Time to Dry.

Important: If you are applying a water based sealer to No Pain Gel Stain, the stain Must Be Completely Dry before applying any water based sealer. Dry time could be 3-5 days OR longer, especially in humid conditions.