

Painted Brick Fireplace Sequence

Your step-by-step guide to a flawless, lasting masonry finish.

Transform your living room this weekend with this professional brick painting sequence. Follow these exact steps and curing times for a durable, beautiful finish.

● Essential Project Specs

24 hours

Plastic moisture test duration

6 inches

Canvas drop cloth overlap

3 feet

Work section width for blending

1-inch

Nap thickness for pitted brick

4 to 6 hours

Primer dry time

12+ hours

First coat dry time

7 days

Final cure time

Paint Stops at Firebox

Tape off the opening to create a crisp boundary where the surround meets the interior. Apply high-heat matte black inside to conceal years of soot.



● The Painting Sequence

- 1 Clean and Test** Vacuum thoroughly to remove loose dust, then perform the clear plastic dryness test.
- 2 Apply Alkali-Resistant Base** Neutralize surface chemistry with a masonry-specific primer to provide essential grip and prevent peeling.
- 3 Mortar Lines Go First** Cut in recessed joints with a 2-inch angled nylon/polyester brush to ensure solid coverage.
- 4 Roll the Brick Face** Push paint deep into the texture, maintaining a wet edge and stopping exactly at the firebox.

● Adapting to Your Brick

Find your row: **Surface Condition**

Surface Condition	Your pick	Why
Active soot stains	Seal before priming	Prevents finish from yellowing over time
Trapped moisture fog	Fix chimney leak	Stops final topcoat from blistering
Deeply pitted texture	Load fibers fully	Coats rough faces completely

● Pre-Project Checks

- Tape a clear plastic square to the lower-left brick.
- Run a dry tissue over the brick to confirm no dampness.
- Verify room conditions are near 70°F with low humidity.
- Check that protective canvas is secured tightly with painter's tape.

● Project Notes

Enjoy your bright, beautifully transformed living room fireplace!