

Quite possibly the most common questions asked about paint over the past 20 years has been something to do with the comparison between latex and oil. Good adhesion and flexibility are the most important properties of exterior paints, because they help prevent blistering, flaking and cracking.

Latex

Oil/Latex

Durability

Top quality latex paints provide maximum adhesion to most surfaces. Latex paints are also very flexible, so they continue to adhere even when temperature changes cause the surface to expand and contract. The elasticity helps prevent chipping, cracking, peeling, flaking and other common paint failures.

Alkyd paints also have excellent adhesion, and perform better than latex paints over chalked surfaces. But in time will become brittle, sometimes resulting in cracking in just a few years.

Color retention

Top quality latex paints provide superior resistance to bleaching, fading and chalking even when exposed to damaging ultraviolet rays.

Oil paints will fade faster than latex paints. They are more likely to chalk (develop a powdery substance on their surface), which causes the color to whiten.

Ease of application

Latex paints will generally glide smoothly from the brush or roller onto the surface.

Compared to latex paints, alkyd paints are more difficult to apply, especially when brushing a large area, because they have more "drag."

Mildew Resistance

Top quality latex paints contain mildewcides to discourage mildew and help the paint maintain a fresh appearance. Although top quality latex paints may be formulated to provide a superior film, which will protect the paint from mildew, there presently is no assured means of preventing mildew under certain conditions. Refer to, Mildew Identification & Control bulletin for cleaning procedures.

Alkyd paint, while also containing mildewcides, are derived from vegetable oils which provide nutrients for mildew growth.

Variety of Uses

Latex paints may be used on properly prepared wood, concrete, metal, vinyl siding, aluminum siding, brick and stucco.

Alkyd paints should not be applied directly to unprimed galvanized metal or concrete. They may be applied to properly prepared wood and metal. They may also be applied to primed surfaces such as concrete and galvanized metal.

Odor and cleanup

Latex paints have little odor and are non-flammable. Clean up on latex paints can be done with warm soapy water.

Oil paints will have a solvent smell to them and require the use of a solvent for cleanup.

Dry Time

Latex paints will dry in just a couple of hours, so they can be re-coated quickly. However, they are vulnerable in case of sudden rain.

Oil paints dry more slowly. Some may take up to 2 days, being susceptible to dirt pick up and for insects and people to come in contact with and mark it permanently.

For further information on comparing Latex & Oil paints, contact your Diamond Vogel® representative or visit the Diamond Vogel® web site at www.diamondvogel.com.