01 | TESTING SHEET

Test it in your own room.

Paint two coats on a proper sample board for each colour. Hold it upright against the floor, the worktop or the curtains, and look at it at three times of day before you decide.

BRAND AND COLOUR	FINISH	MORNING	MIDDAY	EVENING	KEEP?

BEFORE YOU CHOOSE

- ☐ Which way does the room face?
- ☐ When do you use it most?
- ☐ Tested against what you can't change
- ☐ Looked at morning, midday and evening
- ☐ Undertone checked against plain white paper
- ☐ Photographed in black and white: enough contrast?
- ☐ Boards labelled and kept
- ☐ Liked it at every time of day

02 | PAINT CALCULATOR

Buy enough, once.

Running out halfway means a second batch, and a second batch can differ. Work it out first, then box every tin into one bucket.

Area × coats ÷ coverage = litres

HOW TO WORK IT OUT

- [ ] Add up the length of every wall
- [ ] Multiply by the height of the room: that is the wall area in m²
- [ ] Take off doors and windows (a standard internal door is about 1.5m²)
- [ ] Multiply by the number of coats, usually two
- [ ] Divide by the coverage printed on the tin, in m² per litre
- [ ] Round up to the next tin size

AN EXAMPLE

Walls: 4 + 3.5 + 4 + 3.5m	15m
× height 2.5m	37.5m²
− one door, one window	− 3.5m²
Area to paint	34m²
× two coats	68m²
÷ 12m² per litre	**5.7 litres**

So buy 6 litres. Coverage varies by brand and finish, so always use the figure on your tin. Ceilings and woodwork are worked out separately.

YOUR ROOMS

ROOM	WALL AREA M²	COATS	COVERAGE M²/L	LITRES	TINS TO BUY

03 | PAINT RECORD

Write it down.

Brand, colour, finish and date, for the touch-ups in five years' time. Keep this sheet with the leftover tins.

ROOM	SURFACE	BRAND AND COLOUR	FINISH	DATE	TIN KEPT

Surface: walls, ceiling, woodwork, doors, radiators, outside. Seal the lid, store the tin upright somewhere frost-free, and write the room on the lid.