



Paint Pouring

Using paints combined with mediums that allow you to pour your paints is an enjoyable free-flow technique. Images are usually abstract, and no two paintings are ever alike. It is probably the antithesis of technique such as pointilism.

The paint pouring technique is achieved by mixing together paints and pouring mediums in proportions that allow a smooth flow rate and optimized interaction of the paints with each other. Adjusting the viscosity of the mixture is a constant task as each paint's pigment has its own unique density, often caused by the metals in the pigment. White, as an example, can be five times denser than water, while a green might only be two times denser than water. Density of paint is expressed in units of "specific gravity." The next time you're at our paint service counter, ask the Green Vest to let you feel the difference between a full jar of white pigment and a full jar of another color.

There is a vast array of "recipes" for pouring paint mixtures. A quick search of "paint pouring" on YouTube is evidence of this. Most, from beginner to expert, will use trial and error to find the viscosity that best suits their style of pouring and desired results.

Our advice is to start with smaller canvases. We are fans of the 6" x 6" stretched canvases with a nice 1" profile. The thicker profile allows you to incorporate the paint that glides down the edge of the canvas into your finished painting. Another added benefit of using the thicker profile canvas is the ability to hand the canvas on its own without framing once the piece is completed.

Here are the main ingredients that you'll need for your paint pour:

Acrylic Paint – You can find small bottles or tubes of this water-based paint in our Arts & Office department

Pouring Medium – The pouring medium allows you to pour your paint easily and inhibits crazing of the paint as it dries.

Floetrol – This improves the flow of the paint and allows the paint to self-level.

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Liquid Silicone Oil – Using the right silicone oil will bring about more of the sought-after dynamic cells in your paint pour.

Once you create your mixtures and pour your paints, be patient. Because of the additives that you have used, the paint will dry slower than you would expect. You will need to leave your canvas untouched in a dust-free, level area for at least 24 hours. You might even be surprised to see cells appearing that you had not seen before you had left the canvas to dry! After the canvas is completely dry, you have the option to seal the canvas. We recommend a glossy, polyurethane applied with a sponge brush. And then, yes, you'll need to let the canvas dry once again for another 24 hours.

Be sure to take notes as you begin your paint pouring journey. As with any new technique, do not be discouraged if you don't get the results you thought you wanted. Rather, be pleasantly surprised every time you pour.

The following is our recommended shopping list for each color that you'd like to use. It is the same formula that we used in our workshop held here in our store.

- **8 oz Clear Squeeze Bottle**
Housewares #M3283005 \$0.99 ea
- **2 oz Acrylic Paint**
Arts & Office \$1.99 ea
- **2 oz Liquitex Pouring Medium**
Arts & Office #130739 \$14.99 for 8 oz bottle
- **10 drops of All-Temp Silicone**
Automotive #191872 \$4.99 for 4 oz bottle
- **1 oz Floetrol Additive**
Arts & Office Item #18718 \$6.99 for 1 qt bottle

(prices as of September 2018)



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