

## **How to prepare and paint rusted metal objects in and around your home.**

Whether you are painting a metal door, an old roller tool box or an iron fence, the first steps are the same for creating a perfect finish. Preparation is the key.

Make sure you protect the area around the worksite with drop cloths or masking paper.

Using gloves and safety glasses to keep metal flakes out of your eyes and skin, clean off all the large loose rust and flaking paint with a paint scraper.

Next use a wire brush or electric drill with a wire wheel to knock off the rest of the rust.

Use a piece of metal sandpaper to remove any swirl marks from the brushing and feather in the transition between metal and paint at the edges.

Lastly, mix a few tablespoons of salt with some lemon juice to make an acidic paste to clean off the entire area. Apply it with a soft-bristle nylon brush.

Dry and then vacuum any rust, dust or dirt that may be present.

Open your can of primer. If it's too thick, thin with mineral spirits according to manufacturer's recommendations on the paint label.

Take the brush you've selected for the primer and apply a coat of primer with smooth, even strokes. After you're sure the primer is dry you can go to the last step.

Take the brush or roller you've selected for the top coat and apply the final paint in the color of your choice. Applying two top coats will ensure total protection.

### Better Finish Quality (Smoother Surface) Shopping List

Gloves

Safety glasses

Metal scraper (pick size based on job size and work area)

Wire brush or corded drill and wire wheel

Metal sandpaper

Lemon juice and salt mixture to make paste

Cloth for drying

Vacuum

Paint rollers or brush for use with oil-based paints

Rust-inhibitive primer

Outdoor latex paint of your color choice

## For Rougher Finishes

If you are not overly concerned about the finished look but just want the item to not continue rusting, there is an easier way. The first few steps are the same.

Make sure you protect the area around the worksite with drop cloths or masking paper.

Using gloves and safety glasses to keep metal flakes out of your eyes and skin, clean off all the large loose rust and flaking paint with a paint scraper.

Next use a wire brush or electric drill with a wire wheel to knock off the rest of the loose rust. Do not make the area shiny or smooth. You want to leave some rust in this process.

Vacuum or brush off any loose dust.

Apply a rust converter such as Rust-Oleum Rust Reformer that you can purchase from a hardware or auto parts store. *Rust converters are primers designed to be applied directly to a rusty surface. Rust converters depend upon a layer of rust being present to be effective.*

This converter will turn black and harden.

You can then just paint over the hardened shell with the latex paint color of your choice.

### Rougher Finish Quality (Smoother Surface) Shopping List

Gloves

Safety glasses

Metal Scraper (pick size based on job size and work area)

Wire brush or corded drill and wire wheel.

Vacuum

Paint brush for use with rust converter

Rust converter or neutralizer

Paint rollers or brush for use with oil-based paints

Outdoor latex paint of your color choice

*\*Hyde Tools offers many of these items. You can buy online at [www.hydestore.com](http://www.hydestore.com) or at many retailers in your area. [Find a retailer.](#)*