



THE VIRGINIA  
ADULT LEARNING  
RESOURCE CENTER

Virginia Commonwealth University

**Painting**  
**Lesson Four: Preparing to Paint**  
**Student Handouts**

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## Giving Instructions for Preparing a Surface

When we give or write instructions for a job, we use only the simple verb. Look at the example.

*Miranda needs a putty knife to fill some nail holes. She wants Maria to give it to her. Miranda says, “Get the putty knife from my toolbox, please.”*

Write the word in each blank to complete these instructions about how to prepare an area for painting.

### Steps in Preparing a Surface for Painting

1. \_\_\_\_\_ most of the furniture from the room.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ floor and remaining furniture with drop cloths.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ pictures, window treatments, hardware, and switch plates from the walls.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ ceiling plates of light fixtures and cover fixtures.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ surfaces with light detergent solution.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ surfaces with a damp cloth or rag to rinse and let it dry.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ glossy surfaces with sandpaper.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ surfaces and \_\_\_\_\_ them with a cloth.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ surfaces for nail holes or cracks.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ holes or cracks with spackling compound.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ the surfaces dry and \_\_\_\_\_ them lightly.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ any water stains or marks on the walls.