



Midnapore Paint & Décor  
403-225-2295

Calgary South Decorating  
403-271-5665

SouthPointe Paint & Décor  
403-726-9161

**Aura Products: Application Techniques (Brush and Roller) in low humidity areas.**

### **Surface Preparation:**

Inspect the surface of the walls or trim to be painted. Repair any holes, cracks, etc. with joint compound or spackle. Allow repair work to dry completely; sand and smooth.

Glossy surfaces should be dulled by sanding. **Wipe down or vacuum surfaces to remove any residual dust.**

### **Best practices for Brush and Roller Application**

#### **Primer / Foundation Coats**

- On previously painted surfaces (in sound condition) a primer is not necessary. Simply apply *Aura*. Two coats of *Aura* will always give the best result.
- For unpainted wall surfaces, *Aura* will act as its own primer to provide the optimal foundation for subsequent *Aura* topcoat.
- Metal, wood and stained surfaces require the use of the appropriate specialty primer.

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*Aura* Colour Foundation products. To achieve the **full colour saturation and richness** on specified colours, apply *Aura* Foundation as the initial coat, followed by the *Aura* topcoat in the desired colour and finish.

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### **Finish Coat Application:**

**Use the same brushing technique you would use for any Low-VOC interior coating.**

- First, cut in walls or ceiling with a high quality (Professional grade) 2 ½ inch (63 mm) angled nylon-polyester brush. Take care to apply evenly and feather edges.
- You can select either an extra firm or regular nylon-polyester brush depending on your personal preference.
- Apply *Aura* to the surface, using light pressure, smooth strokes, brushing back into the applied paint only to achieve a uniform appearance.
- **Do not over brush** in the attempt to smooth out completely any brush marks – let *Aura* do that work for you.
- *Aura* will set-up quickly, so move around the room, along the edges, as fast as you feel comfortable, keeping a wet edge.
- Maintaining a wet edge as you go around the room will ensure a uniform appearance.
- Cut - in the room in the following sequence: wall - ceiling; corners, around electrical outlets, windows, vents; followed by the wall - floor.

Once the room is cut in entirely, you are ready to roll **Aura**.  
Roller application does not require any special application techniques.

Choose the nap size length depending on the profile of the surface you are painting.  
 $\frac{3}{8}$  inch (10mm) nap on most surfaces and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (15mm) and up for semi-rough to rough surfaces. For satin or semi-gloss finishes, a shorter nap size may be best.

*In the driest of conditions we have found the 15mm gives best results.*

- Select your starting point, **remember corner to corner or edge to edge is best**, load the roller with **Aura** paint and roll it out vertically onto the surface and keep going in the same direction away from the starting edge.
- **Work quickly maintaining a wet edge. Do not back – roll.**
- **Do not overwork the product. *Aura*** has excellent levelling qualities.
- **Do not use the W method** of application.
- **Apply at the recommended coverage rate, 400 sq.ft./gallon to get optimum hide.**

If you see that you missed or skipped a spot and the paint is already ‘setting up.’ It is best to allow the paint to dry before going back and touching that area up. **Aura** has great touch-up properties. A superior job is attained with a two coat application. Allow the first coat to completely dry before applying a second.

### **General Tips for painting.**

- Before painting the main or even feature wall, practice your painting technique for example in a closet.
- When painting a flat ceiling you may require  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch (15mm) or larger nap to get more paint onto the surface if it is streaking with a lower nap size.
- Get everything ready and close at hand, know where the clean up materials are.
- With today’s quicker drying latex paints plan your painting strategy; paint from corner to corner before you take a break.
- Use damp clothes to cover paint trays and rollers when taking breaks.
- Be prepared to wash your brushes more often and keep moist when not in use.
- Remove any spills straight away. The modern acrylics have very good adhesion making them more difficult to clean up.
- With modern acrylic paints it is always advisable to paint in a higher humidity atmosphere if the humidity is low try to increase by steaming a kettle.
- If paint is drying exceptionally quickly consult your Benjamin Moore Retailer on the use of the Extender product.
- Record your colours for each room on the back of the electrical cover plate.

