

**The Old-Fashioned  
Milk Paint Company, Inc.**

436 Main Street, P.O. Box 222  
Groton, Massachusetts 01450-0222



TEL: {978} 448-6336  
ORDER LINE: {866} 350-6455  
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WEB: [www.milkpaint.com](http://www.milkpaint.com)

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**Just because you're green doesn't mean you have to be drab.**

Long before “green” became a buzzword, [The Old Fashioned Milk Paint Company](#) began producing a natural, green paint, in twenty deep, rich colors.

Forty years ago our founder, [Charles Thibeau](#), was involved in Boston's first Earth Day, having just published one of the country's earliest sourcebooks of environmental resources with his non-profit group, the *National Foundation for Environmental Control*. His daughter, Anne Thibeau, our current president- just fourteen at the time- helped out that day by selling “daisy buttons” proclaiming “Give Earth a Chance” at the Park Street subway entrance, to help support the cause.

A few years later Charles kept his commitment to the environment when recreating an ancient formula for natural milk paint to be used in his newest venture of making reproduction furniture. [Milk paint](#), a homemade, long lasting paint made on the spot using local ingredients, was the finish of choice for many early colonists wanting a splash of color in their homes. Its roots, though, stretch back much further in history, with traces of milk paint found in King Tut's tomb and in early cave paintings in France.

After spending years researching old formulas and experimenting in the basement, Charles had recreated the perfect mixture of crushed limestone, milk protein, clays and earth pigments. The colonists would have used skim milk or buttermilk, but Charles chose to use the basic protein (casein) in a powder form so the paint ingredients could be saved and simply mixed with water when he was ready to paint.

Yankee Magazine was producing a series of books on the “forgotten arts” in the 1970s (e.g. how to build a stone wall) and wanted to include a chapter on making paint from scratch. They heard about Charles' experiments and called him for an interview. When the book came out his phone started ringing off the hook. People from far and wide wanted to buy this legendary milk paint they'd been searching for, the paint that had fallen out of favor since the paint can was invented, and since the modern marvel of latex paint *revolutionized* the paint world.

Fast forward thirty-six years. The Old Fashioned Milk Paint Company has over 400 dealers in the U.S. alone, and several more distributors worldwide, including Canada, the U.K., Japan, Germany, the Netherlands, Thailand, and Korea. The carbon footprint of shipping paint in powder form is much smaller than of commercial paint, as we are shipping powder, not water. It also allows us to package a paint without toxic preservatives, keeping our paint as pure as when the colonists mixed up their homemade versions on the back porch.

Charles, now 82, has passed on the torch to his daughter Anne, who runs the business. Anne knew there was more potential for the use of milk paint than just for the furniture and other porous surfaces for which Charles had developed it. People were looking for a safe alternative to the many toxins found in today's wall paint. Anne led the way for another round of R & D to develop a new line of milk paint that would have the same great adhesion and the same luminescent quality for which the original formula is known, but for previously painted walls and new drywall. After much experimentation our new [SafePaint](#) was born, another example of an old technology dealing with a modern problem.

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## **FACTS**

- Old Fashioned Milk Paint and new SafePaint for Walls are safe for people and the environment.
- Milk paint is one of the most ancient forms of paint known. Milk protein (also known as casein) and crushed limestone mix to form a very strong binder. Clay is added for body and earth pigments are added for color. The paints are made in powder form to avoid adding chemical preservatives. Water is simply added to the powder before use.
- The ingredients in milk paints are 100% biodegradable.
- Old Fashioned Milk Paint was first produced in 1974 as a natural, authentic finish for reproduction furniture and the restoration trade. It was formulated to adhere to porous surfaces such as bare wood and raw masonry.
- SafePaint was recently introduced to meet the growing demand for safe, interior wall paint. SafePaint is a breakthrough that uses an old technology to meet modern needs. It can be used on many nonporous surfaces including previously painted walls and new drywall with joint compound, which was unheard of in early milk paint formulations. SafePaint is a milk paint based on the original formula, but refined through modern innovation to give it properties that the original formula did not have- while still retaining its natural, safe qualities.
- Both formulas contain zero VOC's (Volatile Organic Compounds) and zero HAP's (Hazardous Air Pollutants). They are [free of harmful chemicals](#), plastics and synthetic preservatives.
- Both have a soft, matte appearance and deep, rich colors. The twenty standard colors are easily mixed to produce many other colors. The original formula has a somewhat uneven, mottled, "old world" look while the new SafePaint maintains a more uniform appearance.
- Many people who suffer from allergies or multiple chemical sensitivity are able to tolerate milk paints where they are not able to use most conventional paints, even many that have low or zero VOC's.
- Milk paints have just a faint milky or earthy odor when wet, and no odor when dry. One may paint a room in the afternoon and sleep in it that night without fear of breathing harmful fumes.
- Old Fashioned Milk Paint and SafePaint are safe for use by pregnant women, for children's furniture and toys, and for hospital, school and nursery walls.

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## TESTIMONIALS

"As someone who is EXTREMELY sensitive to chemicals, I have the highest praise for your SafePaint because it enabled me to move back into my home as soon as the paint was dry.

This is miraculous because I am so sensitive to standard paints that sometimes I have been unable to enter recently painted premises for months after they dried, due to the lingering fumes of toxic chemicals.

After a recent flood in my home, the SafePaint was used to cover flat and glossy latex paints... and new DragonBoard (which was used instead of the customary chemical-laden drywall). I THANK YOU for producing products that are healthy for people and the environment." Barbara J.K., Irvine, CA (author of "Behind the School Wall")

"Safe Paint- I have to say I'm in love with it. It is real paint. It makes the other synthetic paints we have all been bamboozled into thinking was paint look like crap. This paint is alive. And to think we have been putting chemicals on our walls for so many years.

At Eco Brooklyn we have a motto. In fact we have many but one of them is that if we can't build with a nine month old in the room then don't build with it. Coincidentally my son is nine months old and he is with me a lot of the time. So I take this really seriously.

You can practically drink milk paint. I have no problems being in a freshly painted Milk Paint room with my son. I would never do that with the synthetic paints. Even the zero VOC stuff. It is still full of chemicals.

This is the real stuff. This is paint. It is free of chemicals. It is good stuff. Take back your painting. Use Milk Paint." Gennaro B., Eco Brooklyn, Brooklyn, NY

"I just finished painting my living room with SafePaint yesterday, and I was so excited by the results that I posted pictures in my favorite decorating forum.

I think the SafePaint color depth is even better than Farrow & Ball (the reigning paint of decorating divas). My sister did her whole house in Farrow & Ball, and to be honest, when I saw it, I was a little disappointed that it didn't floor me. I wouldn't have looked twice at her walls, even though the colors are beautiful. But the milk paint does have a special presence that you notice when you walk into the room. It makes you say wow, look at the walls.

After reading about clay based and environmentally friendly paints, I decided to try milk paint. I'd never used it before and was nervous about painting several rooms with it.

Well, it's fabulous! The color is nothing like I've ever seen before. It has a life to it, an elegance, that latex doesn't have. So far I've done two rooms, and the color looks amazing in all lighting. The color shifts (as it does with all paints), but it shifts well. The main difference is it doesn't die out in dim light or shadow, or go ghastly in artificial light. It's beautiful all the time. I can see now why people rave over F & B and full spectrum paints. The milk paint has a similar effect. Absolutely flat, it looks soft, chalky & velvety. But is rock hard & rough to the touch- a bit surprising. I've never seen a paint with such presence before. Thanks very much. Very pleased with your product." Andrea M., Ridgefield, CT

"I am very sensitive to chemicals, and for several years have been quite sick on and off. My husband and I have moved to a new house, and we want to live our lives in a way that is healthier for us and better for the environment. We spent hours researching paint options. We found several companies that provided latex paints with fewer chemicals, but we were discouraged by the prospect of having to compromise on our goals.

We were so excited when we found your paint! We couldn't believe we had found paint without fumes or smell or off-gassing, which is good for the environment *and* of high quality. It didn't take much time for us to decide to order some. Thank you SO much for the paint.

We couldn't believe how much paint the mix produced (we were able to paint more walls than we had planned), or how fun it was to mix and use it. The paint went on smoothly and evenly. The color is creamy and a lot sweeter than the name buttermilk implies! We are very impressed that it evened out the texture of our 'faux wood' paneling. The paint looks very soft, and it actually makes the walls seem to recede from the eye, making some small spaces look bigger.

We could not have made a better decision than to use your paint products. The mixing and painting were fun and easy (and I was indoors with the paint the whole time without a single headache or ill effect), the color is creamy, bright, and clean, and the finished product is one we've been proud to show off as well as live in. We already have the colors for two more rooms picked out!

Thank you again for producing high quality, healthy, earth-friendly paints. We hope your wall paint line is a big success, because we don't want to use another wall paint ever again." Erin T., Texas

"I just wanted to write quick note to let you know how pleased my husband and I were to use your SafePaint in our home. I am currently 8 months pregnant and we also have an amazon parrot as a pet. Needless to say, I was very concerned about painting in our home for both my safety and the well being of our parrot as well, since parrots are extremely sensitive to many things with paint being at the top of the list. I was so happy to hear that your paint was chemical free and had very low odor. I will say I was very nervous that the paint would have a foul odor and that the paint would not adhere to the walls that have been painted over several times over the years. But to my surprise and pleasure there was virtually no odor, just an earthy or milky smell which went away within a half hour. The SafePaint stuck to the wall perfectly and only required 2 coats (which latex paint would have required as well if not more). That night, you would have never known that a room in our house had been freshly painted. I was so relieved for myself but most importantly for our parrot as well. We will certainly be returning customers for sure. Thanks so much for a great and safe product!!!!" Amy B., Yardley, PA

"Here is your ultimate testimonial.... I was painting an old door in our home and had a yogurt container with the mixed blue paint on top of my 70 gallon fish aquarium. Well I am not sure how it happened, but the paint went into the tank (along with the brush). The aquarium turned a deep rich blue color, though I was extremely worried about the health of my fish. My wife thought that I should take them out, but from my experience with aquariums, they seem to clean themselves, so I left it. I was simply amazed! 24 hours after spilling the Milk Paint into my fish tank, the color was about gone and all the fish were healthy as ever. The blue eventually faded out completely and the fish flourished. Since then I have added about a dozen new fish to my tank. Not only am I more than happy with the results of the paint on the old door, but I am also amazed that the paint is so non-toxic that even a little neon tetra is unscathed after swimming in it. Thank you!"

Gregg, Vermont

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**36 Years of Press**

**1974** Yankee Magazine's Book on the Forgotten Arts- "Making Paint from Scratch", Yankee Magazine- "Sayings of the Oracle" column

**1975- 80** Early American Life, Fine Woodworking, House Beautiful, Antique Trader, Yankee Magazine- "The Smallest One Man Paint Company in the World"

**1981-86** Boston Herald, Worcester Telegram, Yankee Magazine, Creative Ideas for Living, Boston Globe, Woodsmith

**1987-91** Country Home, Popular Mechanics, The Home, Country Living, Yankee Magazine, Better Homes & Gardens, New England Monthly, Country Home, Decorating \*There are many other unmarked newspaper clippings from these early years.

**1992-97** E Magazine, New York Times, The Palm Beach Post, Ottawa Citizen, Natural Life, Minuteman Chronicles, Gloucester Daily Times, Wilson Daily Times, Jersey Journal, Watertown Public Opinion, Popular Mechanics, Country Folk Art, Country Living, Times Free Press, Old House Interiors, McCall's, Family Circle, Bridgeport Advocate, Yankee Home Companion, American Homestyle & Gardening

**1998-2002** Fine Woodworking, Country Home, Wood, CWB, Country Living, The Freeholder, Rocky Mountain News, Times Union, The Telegraph, Family Handyman, E Magazine, Natural Home, Old House Journal, This Old House, Fine Woodworking, Old House Interiors, Victorian Homes, Romantic Homes, Organic Style, Kitchen & Bath Ideas, Natural Home (2002- voted "Favorite Paint"- Readers' Choice), Selber Machen (German magazine), Sunset Magazine, The Decorative Painter

**2003-04** Mother Earth News, Home Magazine, PWC, Old House Interiors,, Romantic Homes, Country Home, Vegetarian Times, Natural Awakenings, Early Homes, Ontario Milk Producer, Country Living, Do! Magazine, Child, VM & SD, New England Antiques Journal, Farm Show, Fine Woodworking, Whole Life Times, Cape Cod Life, Dwell, House & Garden

**2005-06** Food & Wine, Cooking Light, Surfaces, Wood Magazine, Urbanite Baltimore, Natural Home, Woodwork, Arts Access Kentucky, Cottage Living, The Paint Dealer, Organic Producer, Robb Report, Fine Woodworking, Mountain Home, DC Style/Philadelphia Style, Early Homes, Hamptons Cottages & Gardens, Residential Architect, Kitchen & Bath Products Guide, National Geographic, New York Post, Yankee Magazine, Martha Stewart Living, This Old House, Citizens Environmental Coalition, Old House Interiors, Smart Homeowner, Country Sampler Decorating Ideas, Today's Chiropractic Magazine, Co-op America National Green Pages, New England Home

**2007- present** Cottages & Bungalows, The Paint Dealer, JCT Coatings Tech, Old House Interiors, Fine Woodworking, Early Homes, Country Home, Martha Stewart Living, Art Calendar, Plenty Magazine, Boston Globe Green Issue, Yankee Magazine, Daily Candy, Cottage Life, Conscious Design, The Daily Green, Every Day with Rachel Ray, House Beautiful, Workbench Magazine, Yankee Magazine, Green Building Product Dealer, Lowell Sun, Organic Spa, Popular Woodworking

We've undoubtedly left many out, and over the years have also been featured in many books, workshops, lectures and blogs. Our paint has been highlighted many times on HGTV and Martha Stewart Living, as well as on the CBS Early Show, and several national/local news programs.

You may see most of the above articles scanned into photo albums on our Facebook page [here](#) and [here](#).



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