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Intro.

This activity introduces learners to the essential tools used in professional painting and decorating. Students will explore each tool, understand its purpose, and learn how it contributes to high-quality surface preparation and finishing. By handling real tools and completing guided tasks, learners build confidence and practical knowledge that supports safe, effective decorating practice.

Aim:

To help learners identify, understand, and correctly describe the tools used in painting and decorating, including their purpose, typical use, and importance in achieving professional results.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this activity, learners will be able to:

- Identify a range of painting and decorating tools.
- Match each tool to its correct purpose.
- Explain when and why each tool is used.
- Demonstrate understanding of how tools support preparation and finishing.

Activity Overview

Learners rotate through tool stations, each containing one tool from the list:

Flexible filling knives

Filling board

Scrapers

Dust brush

Paint kettles

Pure bristle brushes

Synthetic brushes

Foam brushes

Mohair rollers

Chalk line & reel

Measuring tape

Steel rule

Spirit level

Trammels

At each station, learners examine the tool, read a description card, and complete a task card that asks them to identify its purpose and typical use.

Why this activity helps!

This hands-on activity supports learners by:

- Building confidence with real decorating tools
- Strengthening recognition and correct selection of tools
- Helping learners understand how tools affect final paint quality
- Supporting assessment criteria through practical engagement
- Encouraging independent exploration and problem-solving

Student Instructions.

- Move around the classroom to each tool station.
- Pick up and examine the tool carefully.
- Read the information card provided.
- Complete the task card by answering:
 - What is this tool called?
 - What is it used for?
 - When would you use it during decorating?
- Once all stations are complete, return to your seat and complete the summary sheet.

Lecturer Instructions.

Set up stations with one tool and one information card each.

Demonstrate safe handling of sharp tools and measuring equipment.

Circulate during the activity to prompt deeper thinking.

Facilitate a group discussion at the end:

- Compare brush types

- Discuss why rollers differ

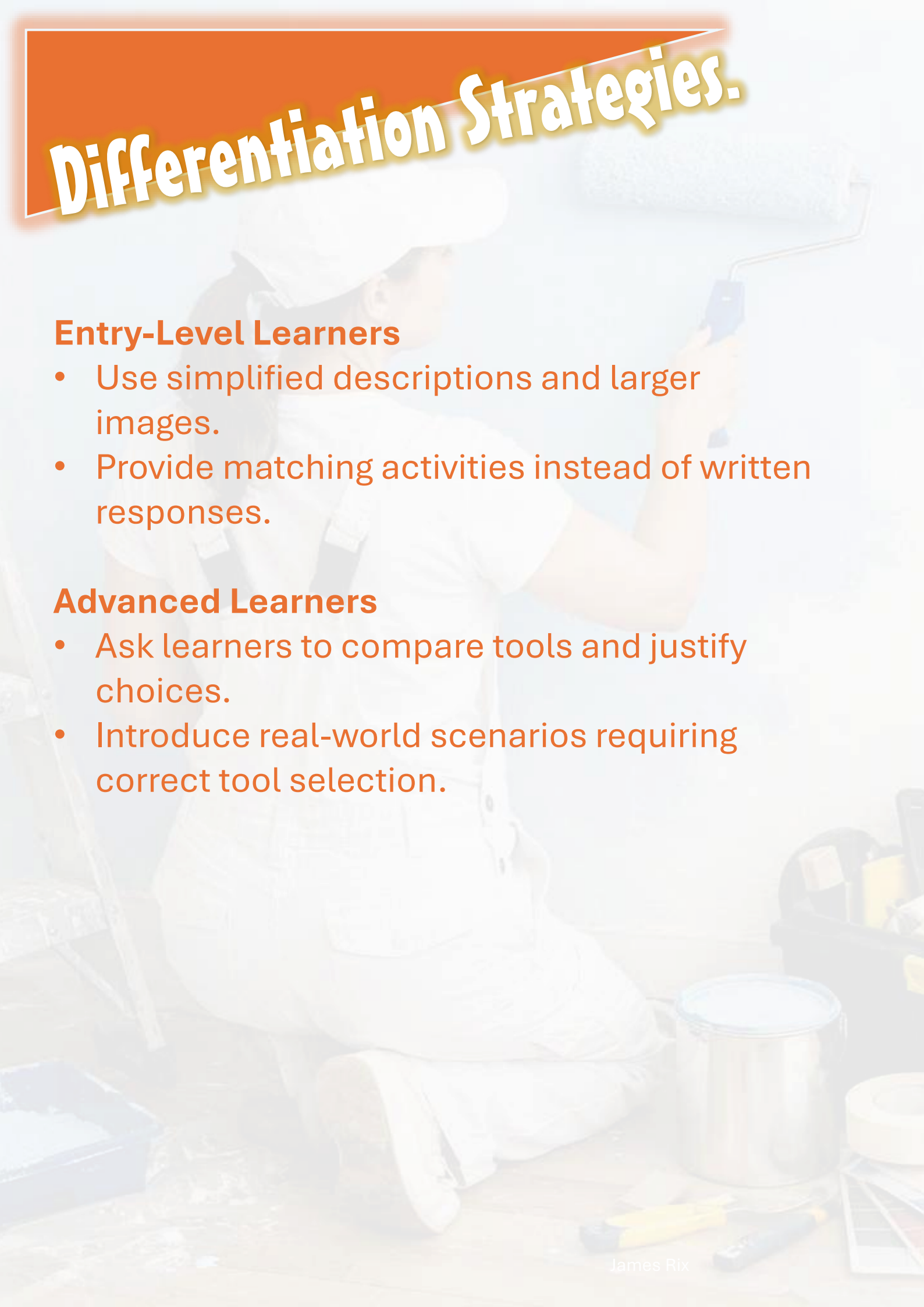
- Explain why accurate measurement matters

Collect task cards and summary sheets for assessment evidence.

Scaffolding Options.

- Provide diagrams showing each tool in use.
- Offer sentence starters such as “This tool is used for...”
- Allow learners to work in pairs for confidence building.

Differentiation Strategies.

A painter in white overalls and a cap is painting a wall with a roller. The background is a light blue wall. The painter is kneeling on the floor, and there are paint cans and tools nearby.

Entry-Level Learners

- Use simplified descriptions and larger images.
- Provide matching activities instead of written responses.

Advanced Learners

- Ask learners to compare tools and justify choices.
- Introduce real-world scenarios requiring correct tool selection.

Qual Mapping Table.

Assessment Criterion	How This Activity Meets It
1.3 Identify tools used in painting and decorating	Learners handle, examine, and identify each tool listed in the unit range.
Range: Tools	Activity directly uses: filling knives, filling board, scrapers, dust brush, paint kettles, brushes, rollers, chalk line, measuring tape, steel rule, spirit level, trammels.

Task Card – Flexible Filling Knives

Your Task:

Write down what this tool is used for.
Describe why flexibility is important.
Identify one situation where you would use it.

Task Card – Filling Board

Your Task:

Explain why decorators use a filling board.
Describe how it helps with efficiency.
Identify one filler type you would place on it.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surfaces

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



City &
Guilds

James Rix

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surfaces

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Scrapers

Your Task:

Write down what defects scrapers remove.
Identify the difference between wide and narrow scrapers.
Describe one surface you would prepare using this tool.

Task Card – Dust Brush

Your Task:

Explain why removing dust is important.
Describe when you would use a dust brush.
Identify what might happen if dust is not removed.

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Activity

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Task Card



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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Paint Kettles

Your Task:

Write down why decorators use paint kettles.
Describe one advantage of using a small container.
Identify a situation where a kettle is safer than a full tin.

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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Pure Bristle Brushes

Your Task:

Explain why pure bristle is suited to oil-based paints.
Describe how bristle brushes behave during use.
Identify one job where you would choose pure bristle.

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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Synthetic Brushes

Your Task:

Explain why synthetic brushes suit water-based paints.
Describe how synthetic fibres help maintain shape.
Identify one surface you would paint with synthetic brushes.

Task Card – Foam Brushes

Your Task:

Write down what finishes foam brushes are ideal for.
Describe how foam prevents brush marks.
Identify one detailed area where foam brushes excel.

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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surfaces

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Mohair Rollers

Your Task:

- Explain why mohair rollers create smooth finishes.
- Describe the types of coatings they work best with.
- Identify one surface where mohair rollers are preferred.

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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Chalk Line & Reel

Your Task:

- Write down what a chalk line is used for.
- Describe how it helps with accuracy.
- Identify one decorating task requiring straight guidelines.

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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Measuring Tape

Your Task:

Explain why accurate measurement matters.
Describe how to use a tape safely.
Identify one job where measurement prevents waste.

Task Card – Steel Rule

Your Task:

Write down what a steel rule is used for.
Describe why rigidity is important.
Identify one situation where you would use it instead of a tape.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surfaces

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surfaces

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Spirit Level

Your Task:

Explain why levels are essential in decorating.
Describe how to check a line is straight.
Identify one task where accuracy is critical.

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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Card – Trammels

Your Task:

Write down what shapes trammels help create.
Describe how they attach to a beam or bar.
Identify one decorative design requiring trammels.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surfaces

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Task Card



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Task Record Sheet.

Student Name

Student Number

Task Number



003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

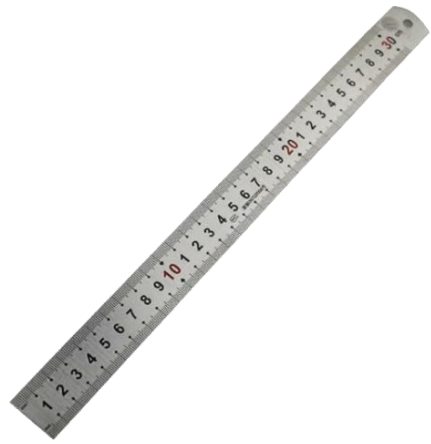
003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Image Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Image Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Image Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Image Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Image Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

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Image Card



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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Image Card



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003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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allow decorators to spread filler smoothly over cracks and imperfections, creating an even surface ready for sanding and painting.

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Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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Guilds

James Rix

provides a clean, flat surface for holding and mixing filler, helping decorators work neatly and efficiently

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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Guilds

James Rix

remove loose paint, wallpaper, and debris, ensuring surfaces are clean and properly prepared before decorating.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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Guilds

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used for quick repairs. Ready to use straight from the tub and dries to a hard, paintable finish

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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sweeps away sanding residue and loose particles, preventing defects and ensuring a smooth paint finish.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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hold small amounts of paint for easier handling, especially when working on ladders or in tight spaces.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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are ideal for oil-based paints, offering excellent paint pickup and a smooth, controlled application

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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Guilds

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resist swelling and are best suited to water-based paints, maintaining shape for consistent coverage.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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deliver ultra-smooth finishes on doors, trim, and flat surfaces, especially when using gloss or high-sheen coatings

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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A chalk line and reel create straight, accurate guidelines across large surfaces to support precise layout and masking.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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provides accurate measurements for surfaces and materials, ensuring precise cuts and reducing waste.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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Guilds

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offers rigid, accurate measurement for small tasks and acts as a straight edge for marking and trimming.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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Guilds

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ensure lines, fixtures, and surfaces are perfectly horizontal or vertical, preventing alignment errors in decorating.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Description Cards



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Guilds

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mark large circles or arcs with precision, helping decorators create curved designs and consistent radii on walls and ceilings.

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Filling Knives

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Filling Board

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Scrapers

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Dust Brush

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Paint Kettles

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Pure Bristle Brushes

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Synthetic Bristle
Brushes

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Foam Brushes

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Mohair Rollers

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Chalk Lines & Reels

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Measuring Tape

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



James Rix

Steel Rule

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



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Spirit Levels

003.1: Know how to prepare and paint surface

Activity

003.1.3: Tools of the Trade

Name Cards



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Trammels

Thank You.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for using this learning resource, we hope you found it useful.

If you have any questions regarding this or any of our learning resources, please contact us on:



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James Rix



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