

## Varilight Primed Best Practices

As with any paintable product, results can vary due to a variety of factors but these tips will help get the best results from your Varilight Primed faceplates.

Before you begin, remove the faceplates from the products (simply clip off).

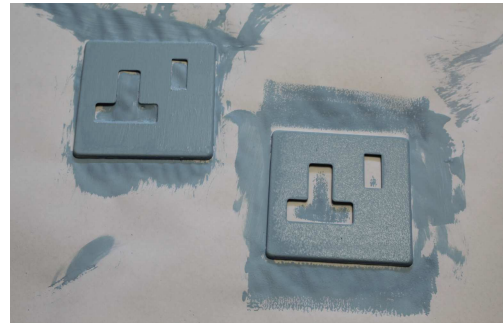
In our trial we tried 4 paints total, 3 brands of emulsion at 3 different price points, and 1 spray paint. With the emulsion paints we used the 2 common methods of application, brush and foam roller.

It is worth noting that in all these scenarios the finish changes significantly through the drying process and any build-up you notice will be much more subtle once the paint has dried.



### Case 1: Store Brand Paint (Budget Price Point)

This paint was the thinnest of the emulsion paints we tested, but in terms of coverage this definitely worked in its favour. See to the side an image of the first coat, brushed on the left, rolled on the right. It can appear on first coat that the paint isn't taking well to the faceplate; however this will change dramatically as more coats are applied.



Finished product with a brushed finish:



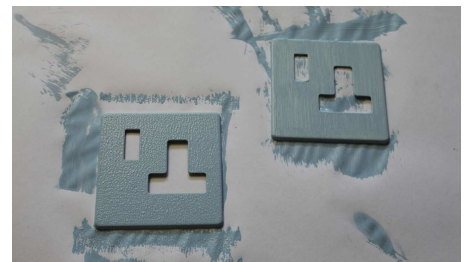
Finished product with a rolled finish:



The end product is quite similar from a distance; it is only close up where you will really notice a difference. The rolled finish is more similar to the finish on the wall, so blends in more, with faint lines being visible in the paint on the brushed product. This effect will be mitigated by a softer bristled brush.

### Case 2: Branded Paint (Middle Price Point)

This paint was in the middle in terms of the thickness of the paint as well as the price, so overall coverage was not an issue, however, we would still probably recommend thinning the paint slightly before application. If it's not thinned out the paint may build up slightly unevenly. See examples to the side.



Finished product with a brushed finish:



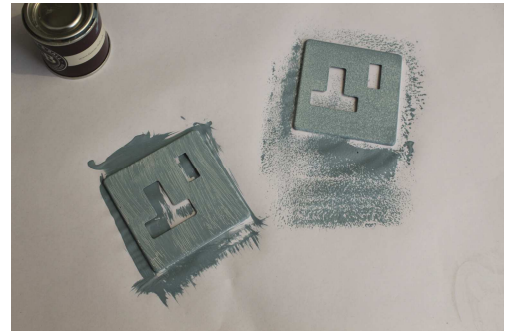
Finished product with a rolled finish:



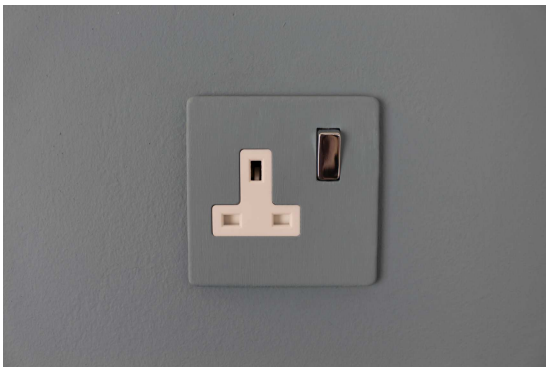
With the middle price point paint, the difference between the faceplates painted using a brush and those painted with a roller is more pronounced. This is due to the paint being thicker, as it will hold more form on application. Again, this effect will be mitigated by a softer bristled brush, or by thinning the paint out.

### Case 3: Premium Branded Paint (Highest Price Point)

This was the thickest paint of the emulsion paints we tried, so the differences we noticed between case 1 and 2 were amplified, with quite distinct lines on the brushed product, and noticeable impressions on the product painted using a roller. With this thickness of paint, we would recommend thinning the paint slightly for more even coverage. See the side image for examples.



Finished product with a brushed finish:



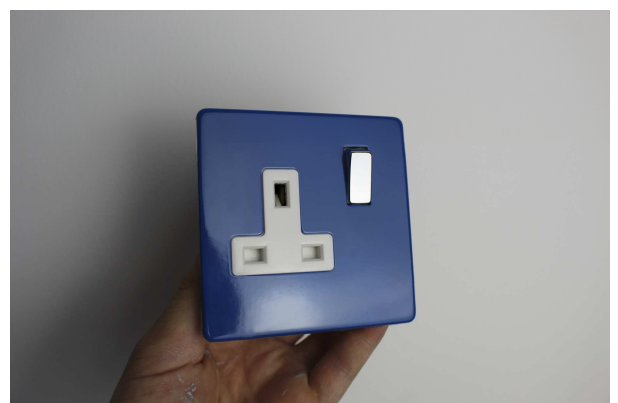
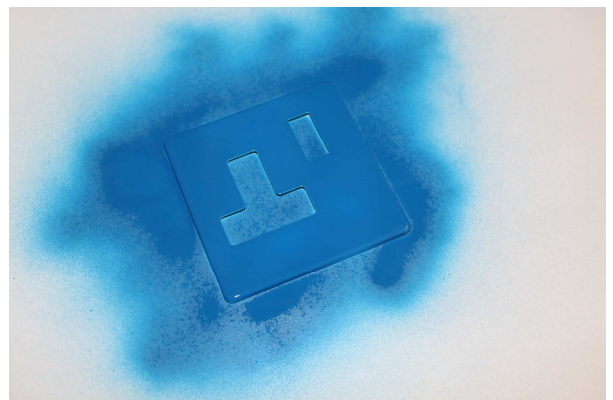
Finished product with a rolled finish:



As you can see by these images, the coverage with the premium branded paint is not as even as the more budget oriented paints.

### Case 4: Spray Paint

The sprayed finish is much closer to the typical finish of one of our professionally finished products, such as Pewter, Satin or the Lily range. With a spray can it is extremely easy to achieve an even finish; however, this method is most likely to be used to achieve a customised finish, rather than when seeking to match to the paint finish on your walls.



## **Conclusion**

From our findings, we can conclude that the thickness of the emulsion has a huge effect on how well it covers the faceplate, with thinner paint achieving a more even coverage. We can also conclude that the application method doesn't have an effect on paint coverage; however it does have an effect on the finish. Therefore it depends on the desired aesthetic, as to whether you prefer to use a paint brush or roller. Consider that the effect will become more noticeable with thicker paint or a firmer bristled brush or more subtle with a thinner paint or softer bristled brush.

For a customised finish, the effect you can achieve with a simple spray can is brilliant, with a dedicated gun/compressor setup not being necessary to get a great finish.