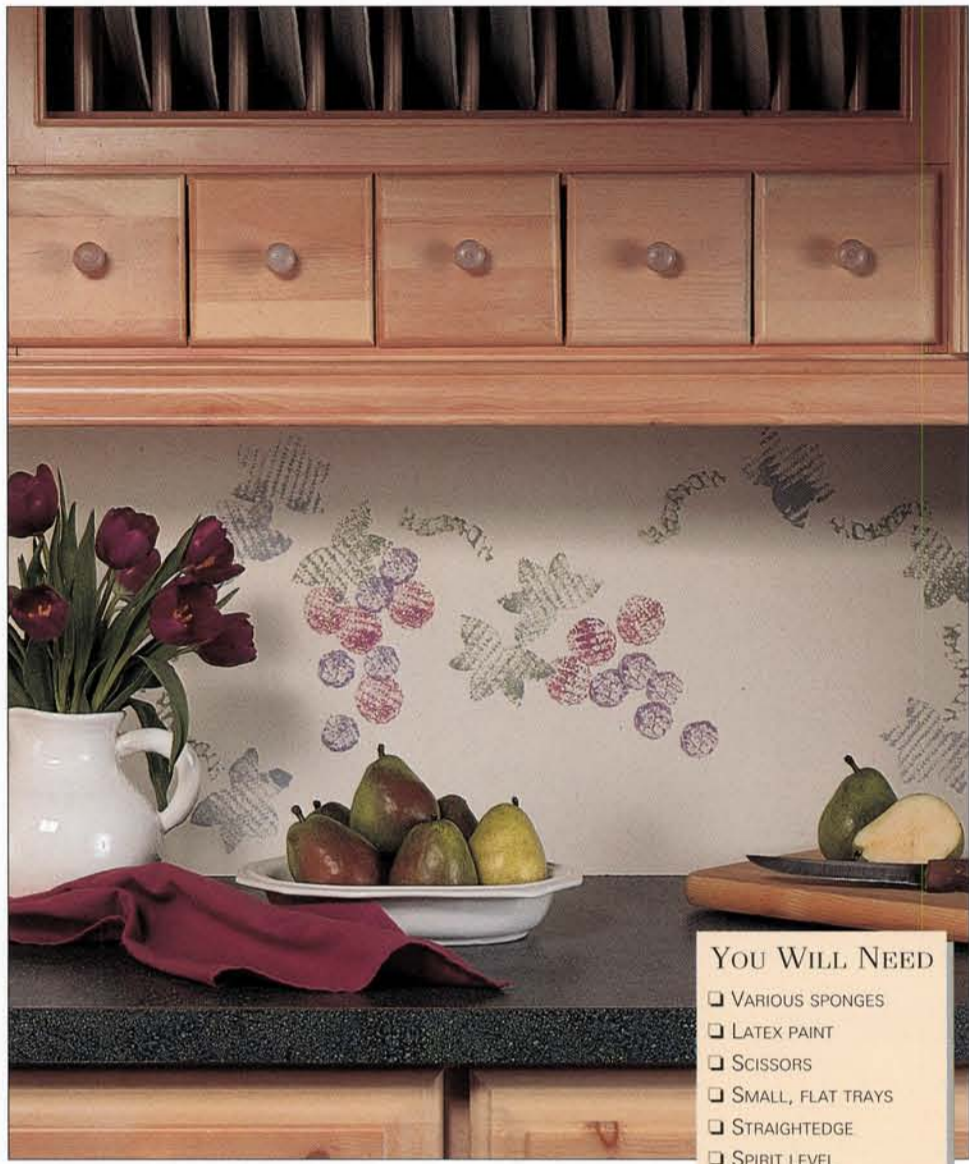


## SPONGE PRINTING ON WALLS



*Sponge on shapes and splashes of color to dress up a plain wall.*

### YOU WILL NEED

- VARIOUS SPONGES
- LATEX PAINT
- SCISSORS
- SMALL, FLAT TRAYS
- STRAIGHTEDGE
- SPIRIT LEVEL
- PEN & PENCIL OR CHALK
- GLASS SQUARE & KNOB (OPTIONAL)

## Bright Ideas

*One shape builds on itself to create a wall full of color; another design combines simple squares with free-form letters for a child's room.*



### BLOCKED ENTRY

Add personality to an everyday back door entry with a simple blocked design. There's no need to cut shapes here.

- Use the sides of a large sponge for the base. Build the block shapes in two directions—using different colors, but similar shades.
- Create the border with the sides of a long, narrow sponge. Paint this in a third color that contrasts with the first two.
- Use horizontal pencil or chalk guidelines to keep the design level.

### WHIMSICAL WALLS

Turn a playroom wall into a learning experience with the help of alphabet blocks.

- Use square sponges for the block shapes. Cut letters from sponges to apply over dried block paints.
- Place the blocks randomly over the wall, making sure there are no large gaps.
- Glue the shapes to glass holders as described inside the card to create an easy project for young helpers.



### Preparing to Print

*This quick-to-create pattern uses very little paint, so each sponged shape dries fast. All the shapes and colors can be used one right after the other without smearing the design.*

This project is ready to start with only a few preparatory steps. The actual painting doesn't take long either—so you'll be done before you know it!

- Measure the area where the sponge printing will go. Make sure the planned designs will fit in that space. Change the pattern if necessary to fit the available space.
- Draw the shapes onto sponges with a pen. Use scissors to cut out all sponge shapes prior to printing.
- Mix paint colors. Add white paint for a softer, more muted look.
- Pour some paint onto a tray large enough to hold the sponge shapes.



If sponge shape is too small to handle or is oddly shaped, glue it to a glass backing. Then glue a knob to the back side of the glass for easy handling.

### Creating the Pattern

Print the design on paper to determine shapes needed (right). Keep number of forms to a minimum—more interest is easily added by using extra colors. Add a shape that links the patterns together as the design progresses across the wall space.



### HANDY HINTS

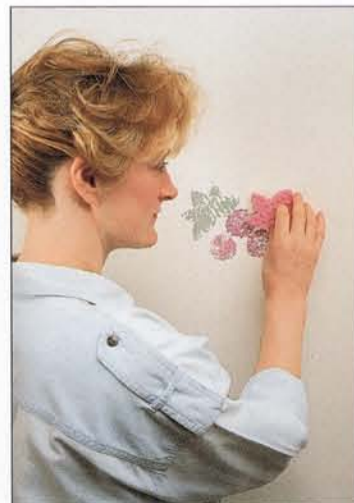
**Make an actual-size pattern** to be sure the finished dimensions look as planned. Stretch or condense the design to fit the space.

**To add depth** to the sponge printing project, overlap the shapes slightly, starting with those at the back and moving to the front.

### PRINTING SHAPES ON THE WALL



**1** Use pencil or chalk to mark wall with placement marks for repeats. For horizontal repeats, use a spirit level and straightedge for guidelines. This will keep the design in line as you proceed.



**2** Keep paint trays and all sponges handy to print entire design. Dip sponge into paint and blot, if necessary. With a little paint on the sponge, press wall lightly to achieve a dappled look.



**3** Latex paint dries fast, so quickly blot excess paint with a soft, clean sponge. Press sponge straight down on top of paint, and then lift straight up. Rinse sponge often for blotting other colors as you progress.

**4** Add additional colors and shapes to complete the pattern. Work along horizontal guidelines to complete overall design. Stand back from your work and check that there are no blank areas that should be filled in. Add more shapes to any empty areas.

