

How To Antique an Existing Mirror

By AngelGilding.com

A commercial mirror has three parts – glass, silver and backing paint. Some mirrors also have a layer of copper over the silver. If you strip the paint and see copper instead of silver, you can use Galena Remover to remove both metals at once.

Tip: If you want to protect one part of the mirror and remove or antique another part, mask the part you want to keep with Aluminum Foil Tape before applying Soy Gel. Foil tape protects the mirror perfectly. You can even cut it into shapes with a hobby knife or single edge razor blade.



Step 1: Remove the Backing Paint

Apply paint stripper to the back of the mirror using a dedicated paint brush. Do not over brush it. Give it time to work. You may need to leave it on overnight. Cover it with a plastic grocery bag to prevent evaporation.



Step 2: Scrap Off the Paint

Use a smooth firm plastic or wooden scraper to remove the dissolved paint. Metal scrapers and razor blades will scratch the glass. It is safe to put used Soy Gel in the household trash.



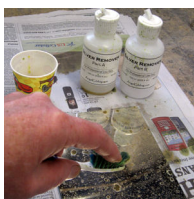
Step 3: Wash the Silver

Most paint strippers leave a waxy residue. Use a paper towel, hot water and a little concentrated glass cleaner to wash this residue off the glass. Wax on the glass blocks the action of our mirror removers.



Step 4: Remove the Copper

If you can see a copper color under the paint, you will need to remove it with Copper Remover before using Silver Remover. Put Copper Remover on a cotton ball and wipe it all over. Dissolved copper turns the cotton blue.



Step 5: Creatively Remove the Silver

Mix equal amounts of Silver Remover “A” and “B” in a cup. You can use an old toothbrush to spatter it on the glass or dilute it with water and carefully pour it on. Experiment with different techniques to get the effect you want.



Step 6: Creatively Buff the Silver

Another way to distress silver is to buff it with a little extra-fine pumice. Make it into a paste with water or Silver Remover and apply it with an old toothbrush or cotton ball. Each technique produces a unique effect.



Step 7: Re-paint Your Mirror

Once you have just the right result, rinse the mirror with water and let it dry completely. When it is dry, paint it with one of our mirror backing paints. Let the paint cure overnight before framing or mounting.



Step 8: Admire Your Handy Work

Now stand back and admire your handy-work. The process is simple but the result will always be unique. Practice on small mirrors to develop a range of techniques before you attempt your masterpiece. No one else will have a mirror just like yours!

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