

Flower Bower



Want to give your girls room to grow? Bring the outdoors in with this fun, flowery bedroom makeover, as simple and lighthearted as a bunch of daisies.

The project starts with a dappled pink wall, lightly ragged to add depth and texture. Each bed is crowned with a painted, picket fence headboard, to act as a whimsical trellis for the sponged and stamped flowers. The blooms are created out of kitchen sponges, cut into petal shapes and fanned into different floral arrangements. The pattern is as random as a scattering of crocuses over a spring lawn.

The beauty of this kind of wall-garden is its infinite, all-season adaptability. The picket fence could be shifted to run along the baseboard, under a window, or anywhere else that could use a little faux architectural framework. The flowers can be any shape, size or color you desire – just be sure to use a variety of shades (even within each bloom) to give the feel of a mid-summer cottage garden.



One practical note: the ragged base coat and flowery overlay will hide almost any flaws or imperfections in the walls themselves – so aside from its girlish charm, this could be a practical solution for rough, patched or pockmarked surfaces.

What You'll Need

Supplies:

- Rags (cheesecloth or cloth diapers work well)
- Mixing bucket and sticks
- Carpenter's level
- Low-tack painter's tape
- Rollers
- Roller Tray
- Brushes
- Large kitchen sponges
- Scissors
- Plastic plates



Paint:

- Base coat: Regal® AquaGlo® Semi-Gloss
- Topcoat in Regal® Matte paint (mixed with Studio Finishes™ Latex Glaze). Colors shown here: top ragged coat in Misted Rose 1339; flowers in Your Majesty 1400, Heather Plum 1396, Imperial Yellow 314, Golden Orchards 329 and Sundance 2022-50.

Step-by-Step Instructions

Step 1: Prime the surface with Benjamin Moore Fresh Start® primer, if needed (new construction, dark previous color, etc.). Roll on the base color, and allow to dry.

Step 2: Mix the top color with glaze, pour into a tray, and dip a rag in the mixture. Wring it out slightly.

Step 3: Using the twisted rag, start at the top of the wall and ROLL (don't drag or smear) down to the bottom.

Step 4: Continue by rolling the adjacent section (try not to overlap much, or some sections of wall will be darker than others). Allow to dry overnight.

For the picket fence

Step 1: At the outer edge of your picket fence segment, place a vertical tape piece, running slightly above the height that you want the tallest "fence post" to reach.

Step 2: Using small tape sections as spacers put one piece at the top, middle and bottom of the first tape strip.

Step 3: Line up the next stripe, using the spacers as edge guides. Use one-and-a-half -inch tape and two spacers to create a three-inch picket with one-and-a-half-inch spacing.

Step 4: Now, put a horizontal piece of tape over the top of each picket to create stripes to be filled in. You can stagger the tops of your pickets, or make a level fence. Check with a carpenter's level to make sure your stripes aren't crooked.

Step 5: With a mid-size brush, paint between the rows of tape to create the fence. Remove the tape as soon as you've finished, before the paint dries.

Step 6: With a pair of kitchen scissors, cut a picket "top" out of a kitchen sponge. Dip it in the same paint, stamp once on some newspaper to wipe off any excess paint, then stamp the top on each of your posts.

For the flowers

Step 1: Using kitchen scissors, cut out a variety of petal shapes, as well as circles for centers.

Step 2: Pour out your chosen colors onto different plastic plates.

Step 3: Dip your "petal" in the paint, stamp off any excess paint on some newspaper, then apply to the wall, repeating to create a fanned flower pattern.

A few tips: practice your flower technique on a piece of cardboard before tackling the wall. Try different petal shapes, color combinations and placements. You can even cut out some of your cardboard practice blooms and tape them on the wall before painting to judge where you want to do your spring planting.