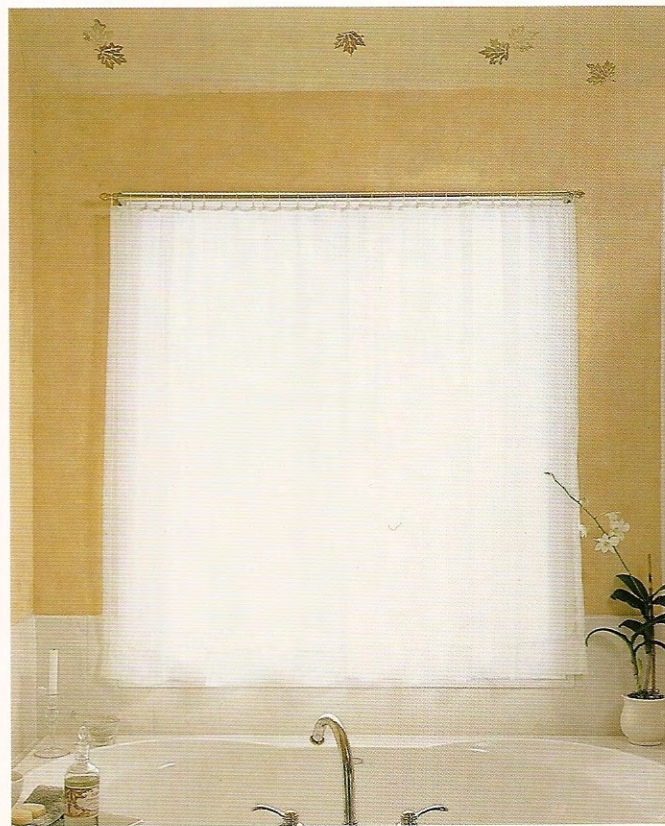


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Painted effects

Sponging, stenciling, trompe l'oeil, stippling, and other painted effects are enjoying a renaissance of popularity because they offer an easy and inexpensive way to add personality to a room. Some, such as trompe l'oeil, require the expertise of a professional artist. Others are easier to apply. If you want to try your hand at one, practice on a board first. Even the simplest finish may require instruction, which is easy to find in a related book, *Decorative Painting and Faux Finishes*. **Sponging** produces a highly textured surface with great visual depth, a real benefit when the wall has imperfec-

tions to hide. The technique involves two colors. One is used as a base coat. The other is dabbed on top with a sponge to create a mottled, textured look. **Ragging on** and **ragging off** are similar to sponging, except a wadded, lint-free cloth is used. **Combing** and **dragging** involve dragging a comb, brush, or other tool over a freshly applied layer of paint to reveal a complementary background color. **Stenciling** is achieved by using a pre-cut stencil to create a stylized motif. And **trompe l'oeil** is a sophisticated form of painting that appears to be real, hence its translation, "fool the eye."



ABOVE AND RIGHT A master bathroom uses texture to delineate between various all-white surfaces. One of the more interesting is the cracked paneling, produced with a technique that ages a surface to resemble the dried, crackled quality of paint in old houses.