

Historical Marker Repaint Guide

Revised May 2012

Indiana State Historical Markers are cast of recycled aluminum including the cap at the bottom of sign. The current post is extruded aluminum. Some of the markers may only need the frame, cap, or post painted. Others may need to be completely repainted. The following instructions and paint information may be used for the restoration of the marker.

Preparation for re-painting historical markers:

Use sand paper or wire brush to remove all loose paint and rust.

Wash with mild detergent, rinse thoroughly, and allow to dry completely. A clean dry surface is essential before painting.

The marker manufacturer recommends painting the surface/s first with an undercoat to provide the best bonding with the finish coat. Talk to staff at your local paint, hardware, or home improvement stores for undercoat recommendations, and follow directions for drying.)

Paint Information:

The dark blue background paint and the silver/gray frame paint should be fast-dry enamel suitable for exterior use. Staff at paint, hardware, or home improvement stores may be able to recommend suitable products and help with color matching.

For the dark blue background, use a product comparable to RUST-OLEUM Spray Paint Gloss Protective Enamel – Navy #7723.

For the frame, cap, and post on a marker, use a product comparable to RUST-OLEUM Gloss Protective Enamel – Aluminum #7715.

For the text and outline of the state, use any non-tarnish exterior-interior liquid gold. This type of paint may be found also in art supply or hobby stores.

Painting the Marker:

Spray paint the marker background with the navy enamel.

Use a sponge brush to paint the letters and state outline with the gold.

Use a sponge brush to paint the frame, cap, and post with the silver/gray enamel.

NOTE: Follow the printed instructions for each type of paint. Some surfaces may require two coats depending on the conditions of the markers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paula Bongen, 317-232-2536 or pbongen@history.in.gov.

P.S. Don't forget to share! We want to acknowledge individuals, groups, or organizations that have restored an Indiana State Historical Marker, so share a few before-and-after photos on [Flickr](#) and fill out our quick [Repaint Report](#) on SurveyMonkey when you're finished.

You can also tell us how it went via e-mail and attach digitized photos or send them via regular mail to:

Paula Bongen
Indiana Historical Bureau
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2296
pbongen@history.in.gov
317-232-2535