Room Paint Planner

How much paint to buy, the sheen to pick, and every step in order.
From vitaldwelling.com — "How to Paint a Room Like a Pro".

1) HOW MUCH PAINT? (2 coats, ~350 sq ft per gallon per coat)

Small bedroom 10 x 10 ft	~270 sq ft of wall	**2 gallons total**
Bedroom 12 x 12 ft	~330 sq ft of wall	**2 gallons total**
Large bedroom 14 x 16 ft	~415 sq ft of wall	**3 gallons total**
Living room 16 x 20 ft	~475 sq ft of wall	**3 gallons total**
Open living 20 x 24 ft	~585 sq ft of wall	**4 gallons total**

Your room: walls (width x height, added up) minus 20 sq ft per door and 15 per window, divided by 350 = gallons per coat. Buy both coats' paint at once and mix ("box") the cans.

2) PICK THE SHEEN

Flat / Matte	Ceilings, quiet bedrooms — hides flaws, least washable
Eggshell	Walls, living rooms & bedrooms — the beginner sweet spot
Satin	Kitchens, bathrooms, kids' rooms — durable, scrubbable
Semi-gloss	Trim, doors, cabinets — hard and washable

3) THE JOB, IN ORDER

- ☐ Clear & cover: furniture centered, canvas drop cloth on the floor
- ☐ Covers off: outlets, switch plates, vents (bag the screws with the plates)
- ☐ Wash the walls (warm water + a drop of dish soap), let dry
- ☐ Spackle holes, sand flush at 120-grit, wipe dust, caulk baseboard gaps
- ☐ Tape baseboards & trim with wide tape — press every edge down hard
- ☐ Prime ONLY: bare drywall, patches, stains, glossy paint, drastic color change
- ☐ Cut in one wall (ceiling, corners, trim) — then roll that wall while it's wet
- ☐ Roll a big W, fill it in, keep a wet edge; one light top-to-bottom finish pass
- ☐ Wait the full recoat time (2–4 h), then cut in + roll the second coat
- ☐ Pull tape while the last coat is still tacky — slowly, at 45 degrees
- ☐ Record the paint: brand, color name/code, sheen, date — tape it inside a closet