

Volume 1

EXTERIOR PAINTING

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

DO IT YOURSELF SERIES



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STEP-BY-STEP GUIDES

Volume 1 Exterior Painting

Volume 2 Interior Painting

Volume 3 Brush & Roller

Volume 4 Decorative Finishes

Volume 5 Interior Wood Finishing

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Volume 7 Wallcoverings



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**For all of your home decorating and improvement needs,
our trained and knowledgeable staff can help with your questions.**

EXTERIOR PAINTING

A STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

Checklist for exterior painting:

Preparation:

- Putty knife & filler for hole and crack repairs
- Sandpaper & sanding blocks for siding preparation
- Extension pole for paint roller & pole sander
- Masking tape to make "cutting in" easier
- Drop cloths for protection and easier clean-up
- Cleaner (TSP) to clean walls, bleach to kill mildew and a bucket
- Sponges, painter hats, disposable paint suits, gloves

Tips:

If you're not sure of the color, buy a small amount of paint and apply it to the intended surface.

Planning the Project

Painting your home is the fastest and most economical way to improve its appearance and keep it protected from the environment. A good paint job will last for many years, have a pleasing appearance and maintain the value of your home. You can add drama, style, and personality to a home faster with paint than most any other kind of home or landscape project.

Painting a house can be easily managed by breaking the project into a series of tasks: planning a color scheme, preparing the surface, choosing top quality paints & materials, painting, then finally cleaning up.

Inspect all Surfaces

Identify any problems requiring special attention: Loose or missing knots in siding, broken or deteriorated siding, chalking, mildew, areas of peeling, etc. Our staff are trained to help you solve these problems, just ask us for assistance.

Select Colors & Finishes

A well planned color scheme creates a pleasing overall impression and brings out the most attractive features of your home. Use color and finish to highlight features and hide unattractive parts of the house.

Take some time and look at color schemes of other homes. This can be very helpful and serve as a source of inspiration for your color decisions.

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Checklist for exterior painting:

Application:

- Cloths/rags for clean-up
- Proper rollers & tray
- Angled brush & edger for "cutting in"
- Trim brush – usually 2" wide (50mm)
- Brushes – synthetic for latex or alkyd, natural bristle for alkyd paints. A 2" (50mm) brush is usually the easiest and most efficient size for painting any areas that your roller cannot reach
- Pail hook – frees your hands when working on a ladder

Tips:

Be sure to work safely. Will you need ladders or scaffolding to reach all areas? Your local rental yard can help with these items.

Calculate Your Paint Requirements

Calculate the total surface area by multiplying the width by the height for each wall and add together for the total square feet (square metres). Adjust for large surfaces not to be painted.

Example:

The exterior front of the house to be painted, sided with new wood, is 50' wide x 12' high (15.24m x 3.65m) = **600** sq.ft. (55.74 sq. metres) Divide the sq. ft (sq. metres) by the coverage factor below.

Formula:

total surface area
coverage per can = # of gallon (3.70 litre) cans

600 ÷ 250 (55.74 ÷ 23.225) = 2.4 or
2-1/2 gallon (3.70 litre) cans.

Here is a rough coverage guide, by surface type, for a one gallon (3.70 litre) can:

150 sq. ft. (13.935 sq.m) coverage for stucco
200 sq. ft. (18.58 sq.m) coverage for shingles
250 sq. ft. (23.225 sq.m) coverage for new wood
350 sq. ft. (32.515 sq.m) coverage for smooth siding

One (1) coat of premium paint will cover most previously painted surfaces of similar color if the surface is in good condition.

Two (2) coats may be required for major color changes, painting over damaged or old surfaces, or to maximize the time before painting again.

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Clean-up:

- Solvent to clean tools used with alkyd (oil based) paints
- Garbage bags
- Pen and masking tape to mark paint cans with the color name and formula number for future touch ups.

Selecting & Buying Paint or Stain

Choose the Gloss

Refer to our Gloss Selection Guide for more information and actual examples of what different glosses look like. Gloss is the amount of "shine" the paint has when it dries, ranging from flat (no gloss) to high gloss.

Flat to low gloss finishes are the most popular paints for siding and fences. Gloss paints are popular for doors, railings and trim and on areas exposed to high traffic or abrasion. Gloss finishes are tough and durable and are characterized by a sheen that results in a cool, crisp finish that reflects light.

Gloss Selection Guide

| Product Use | Flat Finish | Low Gloss | Semi or High Gloss Finish |
|---|-------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| wood siding, shakes, shingles | excellent | excellent | fair |
| brick, masonry | excellent | excellent | good |
| aluminum, vinyl, steel siding, shutters | very good | excellent | good |
| fences | very good | very good | good |
| aluminum trim, gutters | good | very good | excellent |
| previously painted metal | good | excellent | excellent |

Gloss is the amount of "shine" the paint has when it dries, ranging from flat (no gloss) to high gloss.

Most surfaces can be painted with latex or alkyd based products. Our trained staff will help you make the right choice for your project.

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Tips:

Primers seal the surface and help form a tight bond between the topcoat and underlying surface material. Primers should be applied to surfaces that have never been painted and areas that are bare or have been patched.

Flat to low gloss finishes are the most popular paints for siding and fences. Gloss paints are popular for doors, railings and trim and on areas exposed to high traffic or abrasion. Gloss finishes are tough and durable and are characterized by a sheen that results in a cool, crisp finish that reflects light.

Choose the Paint Type

Paints are designed to be used on certain surfaces and to perform well under different conditions. Here is a summary of your options with performance characteristics.



Latex – (water based) Easy to apply and clean-up, low odor, quick drying, durable, can be applied to partially moist surfaces, resists peeling, chalking, blistering and is flexible. Second coats can usually be applied within 2 - 4 hours of the first coat. Available in many glosses and has excellent color retention and UV protection. Ideal for siding, fences, stucco, masonry.

Alkyd – (oil based) Excellent adhesion, smooth finishes, tough and durable. Alkyd paints are better over chalky surfaces or previous alkyd paints. They require mineral spirits for clean-up. Allow overnight drying between coats. Available in many glosses. Ideal for siding, trim, windows and doors.

Enamel – (oil or water based) A glossy finish that is tough, durable, smooth and impact resistant. Enamels are available for a wide variety of surfaces including metal, pipes, etc.

Wood Stains

Paints cover the surface but stains soak in and allow the natural texture of wood to show. Stains are popular for textured wood surfaces. Ideal for wood siding, shingles, shakes and fences.

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Tips:

Buy your paint with the following considerations

- Get the best quality paint that you can afford.
- Premium grade products are easier to apply, have better color selection, cover more area than lower grade paints and have a longer life between paint jobs.

Buy what you need and not more to minimize the amount of paint to be disposed of or stored.

Wood Stains

Solid Color Stains – Penetrate and cover the natural grain of wood but allow the natural texture of the wood to show. Use on new wood or previously stained surfaces. Available in alkyd (oil) or 100% acrylic latex base.

Semi Transparent Stains – Penetrate the surface of the wood to protect and color while letting the natural grain and texture show. Ideal for new wood or over previously semi transparent stained surfaces.

Specialty Paints – For decks, driveways, machinery, masonry, rusty surfaces. We carry an extensive selection of coatings for all architectural, industrial, maintenance and marine applications.

Choose Primers

Primers seal the surface and help form a tight bond between the topcoat and underlying surface material. Primers should be applied to surfaces that have never been painted and areas that are bare or have been patched.

The two key factors in primer selection are adhesion to the surface and compatibility with the topcoat. The paint you choose will usually identify a recommended type of primer on the label.

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Finalize and select your colors

We can offer you thousands of color alternatives! Refer to our In-Store Color Selector or purchase a decorating guidebook for a more detailed look at color.

Color choice can dramatically change the look of your home. It can accentuate architectural features and can create harmony or drama.

Tips:

Custom color matching is available at all of our stores.

Buy your Tools and Materials

Make sure you buy the best quality tools that you can afford. Top quality tools will save application time and achieve better results. Most jobs can be done with a few quality tools including 1 or 2 premium brushes, a sturdy paint tray that can be attached to a ladder and 1 or 2 good rollers.

Brushes – Select a quality 2" - 2.5" (50 - 63mm) angled brush for cutting-in trim. Choose pure bristle natural hair brushes for alkyd or oil based paints and synthetic brushes for use with both water based and alkyd paints. Top quality brushes will hold more paint, have less dripping and spattering, apply paint more smoothly with minimal brush marks, give a long, even release of paint and provide better "cut-in" ability. Quality tools can be cleaned and saved for your next painting project.



Rollers – Rollers are available in various nap sizes, fabrics, lengths and quality grades. Choose premium quality rollers to minimize fluff, spattering and unwanted marking.

| nap length | applications |
|----------------------------|--|
| 5mm - 1/4" | semi or high gloss paints on smooth surface walls |
| 10mm - 3/8" | flat or low gloss on smooth walls |
| 15 - 30mm 1/2" - 1-1/4" | all paint types on rough or stippled surfaces such as stucco |

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Tips:

Use a 4' extension handle for walls so that you don't have to run up and down a ladder.

Use a specialty masking tape on windows or in sunlight.

It removes cleanly even after several days in direct sunlight. Regular masking tape can be very difficult to remove and will often pull off in pieces and leave adhesive behind on the surface. The specialty tape can be slightly more expensive to purchase but when you consider the extra time and inconvenience of scraping the pieces of regular masking tape and cleaning the adhesive residue it leaves behind, the specialty tape actually costs less. Often this specialty tape is a blue color.

Buy your Tools and Materials

Spray Application – Sprayers can be bought or rented. Ask one of our professionals for advice before attempting this method of application.

Special Tools – Surfaces with unusual angles and contours are sometimes difficult to paint. Special tools can make difficult areas easier to paint; pipe rollers & paint mitts for pipes and other contoured surfaces, various paint pads and trimmers, long handled rollers and brushes for hard to reach areas.



Surface Preparation & Application

Prepare to Paint

1. Gather materials and tools.
2. Remove or cover window and door hardware. *Note:* Regular masking tape is very difficult to remove if left on outside for more than 24 hours. Use low tack masking tape or remove the regular masking tape as soon as possible.
3. Cover shrubs and walkways.
4. Play it safe! Wear a long sleeved shirt, painter hat, safety glasses, and a dust mask or gloves if needed. When using a ladder, be sure to have a level firm base.



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Tips:


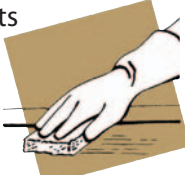

We will be happy to tint the primer to a similar tone as your topcoat to improve hiding and minimize the possibility of applying multiple coats.

Prime the entire surface if you are painting a light color over a dark color.

Our stores have knowledgeable staff to assist you with any preparation question. Just ask.

Prepare the Surface

Paint can accentuate the surface condition, it is important that the surface be well prepared.

1. Scrape or wire brush off any loose paint and rust.
2. Remove oil, grease and dirt by hand or by pressure washing the surface. If mildew is present, wash with a solution consisting of 1 part bleach with 3 parts water. A car wash or turks head cleaning brush works great. Leave the bleach solution on the surface for at least 20 minutes to kill the mildew. Scrub solution vigorously on the surface and rinse thoroughly with water. Allow to dry. Use gloves and eye protection and follow the bleach manufacturer's instructions. Don't forget to cover your plants and shrubs.
3. Make all needed repairs. Patch and fill all holes and cracks, replace loose or rotted wood. 
4. Caulk siding joints and around windows and doors. Make sure vents in soffits and eaves are clean. 
5. Sand all patches smooth.
6. Exterior weathered surfaces that have been washed with TSP do not usually need sanding. Areas under the eaves and soffits not exposed to sunlight or shiny areas should be scuff sanded with 80 grit sandpaper to maximize adhesion. 
7. Spot prime all repaired or bare areas.

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Tips:

Don't forget to wear sunscreen.

For the best results, apply paint above 10°C (50°F). Do not apply in direct sunlight or on a hot surface.

Stop painting at least 2 hours before anticipated rain.

Do not overspread the paint. If you are covering more than 400 sq. ft. (37 sq.m) per gallon (3.70 litre) can on a smooth surface, your paint is too thin which will result in poor coverage.

Apply Paint & Stain

Before You Start

Safety comes first. Take a few minutes to ensure that your work environment is risk-free. Read and follow product labels, especially the caution and safety information.

Paint

For a professional looking paint job, paint must be spread evenly onto the surfaces without running, dripping or lapping onto other areas. Keep these three steps in mind when painting... paint is first applied, then distributed, then finally smoothed.



1. Stir the paint well before and occasionally during use. Use a lifting motion with the stir stick to ensure all solids on the bottom are well mixed.



Exterior paint is best applied with a brush. This actually works the paint into the surface for better adhesion. Rollers or paint pads can also be used.

2. Apply paint in the following order;
 - a. Roof Trim.
 - b. Walls.
 - c. Doors.
 - d. Windows.

In general, work from the top down.

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Tips:

Use an extension pole to speed up application.

Want to take a break? Stop at visual break points to avoid uneven lap marks.

Dip the brush loading one third of bristle length then tap the bristles against the side of the can – do not scrape brush on the can rim.

Brush Application Technique

Pour mixed paint $\frac{1}{2}$ of the depth of your brush's bristles into a pail. Dip the brush loading one third of bristle length then tap the bristles against the side of the can – do not scrape brush on the can rim. Cut in edges using the narrow edge of the brush, pressing just enough to flex the bristles. Keep an eye on the edge to keep it straight.

Roof Trim – Begin by cutting edges with a 2" (50mm) brush stroke. With your brush, start in the corner and paint across the width of the trim and slightly overlap brush strokes to prevent one lap from drying before the next lap. Paint in 3' – 4' (1 metre - 1-1/2 metre) sections.



Roller Technique

Roll the roller back and forth in lower portion of the paint tray until it is loaded. Then roll back and forth on the ridges of the upper section to remove excess paint. Paint a large "W" about three feet across, then work back-and-forth to distribute, then up & down to smooth. The final stroke is up, rolling in one direction only (called "backrolling").



Walls / Siding – Do one wall at a time starting in the top corner working down. Cut in next to all trim areas and in the corners. Overlap roller 2" to 3" (50mm - 75mm) to avoid missing spots. Keep roller strokes parallel and remember to back roll. For brushing, use a 3" (75mm) wall brush and work in areas of about 2' ($\frac{1}{2}$ metre) square.

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Tips:

When pausing for a snack or overnight, wrap your brush or roller sleeve in plastic film to seal out air and then store in a cool place. This will reduce the number of times you have to clean your tools.

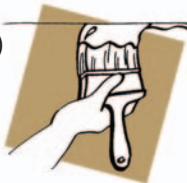
Clean brushes with a "brush comb" to align the bristles and remove traces of paint. Store brushes in their original covers, brown wrapping paper or plastic film.

Clean any specks of paint off windows with a razor scraper.

Place a thin film of solvent on top of alkyd paints to prevent skinning – do not shake.

Apply Paint & Stain

Trim – Use a 2" – 2.5" (50mm - 63mm) angled brush.



Doors – Start with the edges using a 2" – 3" (50mm - 75mm) brush then paint the rest of the door with a roller working from the top to the bottom. For paneled doors, start with the edge and mouldings then complete the flat areas. "Tip off" the door by gently running the brush from top to bottom. This will leave a smooth finish.

Windows – Lower the outside sash completely. Use a 2" – 2.5" (50mm - 63mm) angled brush to paint side and top areas where the sashes slide, then paint the entire lower sash and crossbars.

When paint is dry, push up the outside sash and window and paint them. Finish the side and bottom sliding areas. Open and close frequently until the paint is dry.

Clean Up & Finish the Job

1. Clean tools – Quality tools will last for years if properly cleaned and stored.



Latex Paint – Clean brushes, roller and tray using soap and warm water before the paint dries.

Alkyd Paint – Use the correct thinner then remove residue with warm soapy water.



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Tips:

If you have a little paint left over, you can get rid of it by painting on another coat or paint onto scrap cardboard and throw out the dried cardboard instead of disposing the liquid paint. Let rags, paint cans, newspaper, etc., dry before disposal.

Clean Up & Finish the Job

2. Store paint and cleaners safely. Ensure that paints are airtight. Store paint in a cool, dry area – ideally a shed, closet or locking cabinet. Keep out of storage areas that freeze. Ensure that paint is stored away from radiators or any other source of combustion. Transfer partially empty cans to smaller containers where there's less air to dry the paint out. Keep away from children & pets.

Dispose of paint

If you bought too much paint and don't want to store it, offer it to a friend or community group. If you can't give it away, check with your local municipality for disposal advice.

3. Record paint name and number for future reference and correct matching. Label each can by area, i.e.: siding, fence, front door.

4. Replace hardware.

Enjoy your new, revitalized home!



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