



10 Steps to Exterior Painting Success!

Step 1: Pressure Washing, Applying House Cleaner Solution, Relocating Patio Furniture, Site Cleanup

Pressure washing of the entire exterior is the critical first step to removing visible and non-visible grime, pollutants, chalking that may cause adhesion problems with the new paint coat. Lightly spraying on a house cleaner solution will assist with the removal of dirt and cleaning of the substrate. Preparation of the site for work (relocate customer's patio furniture, relocation of exterior ornamental art, covering of personal property with plastic or tarps to keep clean).

Step 2: Scraping Loose Paint / Sanding Surfaces / Exterior Spackle

Removal of lifting paint chips and flaking paint ensures a smooth substrate for the fresh primer & paint. Sanding surfaces to the appropriate smooth base in preparation for application of primer. Exterior spackle application and re-sanding.

Step 3: Caulking & Nail Hole Filling

Provides weather tight seal to all gaps and corners, produces a smooth finished look to all moldings, trim, and siding joints.

Step 4: Priming Bare Wood & Sealing Effected Areas

Primer creates an adhesive seal over the substrate in preparation for the finish paint color application. Priming is one of the most under-valued aspects of exterior painting. Application of primer to flaking/cracking prior base paint will assist with the proper preparation and seal. Also, ideal to primer over exposed fresh caulking locations (once cured and dry).

Step 5: Temporary Removal of Fixtures, Downspouts

Removal of exterior lighting fixtures, ornamental artwork, and downspouts will provide for easier masking and full-coverage spraying of the exterior.

Step 6: Masking, Drop Cloths, Tarps

Preparation is key! Proper masking off of walkways, windows, doors, utility boxes, air conditioner systems, vents, etc. prevents over-spray problems and ensures 'continuity of color'. Proper masking provides seamless lines and produces visual art.

Step 7: Spraying, Back-Rolling, Brushing

Different projects call for application of paint through different means. Majority of the time, exterior projects call for spraying of the paint through airless sprayer equipment, follow by back-rolling to ensure a uniform coat. Some sections may require brush painting. Best to remove masking within 30 minutes of spraying.

Step 8: Painting the Trim

Applying a thick trim color paint coat to all fascia, corners, casement, and detail molding, creates visible 'dimension' to the structure. Using a small roller and brush, the trim should be uniform in color with pure lines.

Step 9: Touch Up

Additional spot masking and painting of both the body, trim, and accent colors provides a thorough follow-up and review of the entire exterior.

Step 10: Clean Up

Re-installation of exterior light fixtures, ornamental artwork, property address numbers, mailboxes, and re-location of patio furniture. Removal of all trash, confirmation of project completion, and final walk-through with client.

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