



HOW-TO BOOKLET #3028

EXTERIOR PAINTING



TOOL & MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Exterior Body and Trim Paint
- Paint Brushes or Roller Applicator Outfit
- Mixing Bucket
- Paint Paddles
- Wiping Cloths
- Scraper
- Putty Knife
- Caulking Gun/Caulking
- Dropcloths
- Glazing Compound
- Ladders

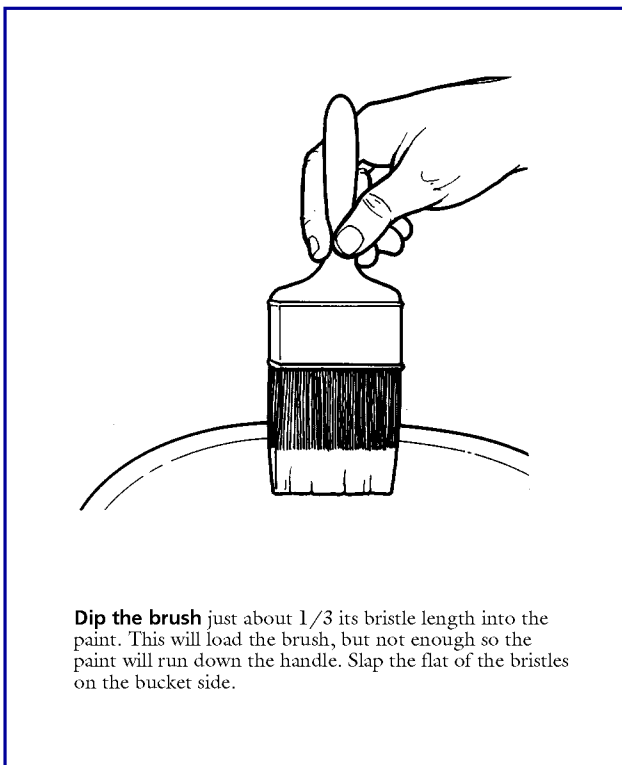
Read This Entire How-To Booklet for Specific Tools and Materials Not Noted in the Basics Listed Above.

As a general rule, the exterior or body of your house should be painted every 6 to 8 years—or even before this if you note deterioration of the paint film such as cracking, peeling, flaking, fading, and just plain paint failure, although paint failure can usually be traced to surface failure (the substratum) rather than the paint. Paint seldom, if ever, “fails.”

As with any paint job, more than 90% of the work involved should be with preparation of the surface. For paint to adhere properly, it must be applied to a clean and dry surface—free of dirt, dust, grease, and flaking paint or other types of paint trouble. The time that you invest in cleaning, scraping, and patching will make it all worthwhile. Applying the paint is the easiest part of the painting project.

Exterior Paint Finishes

There are two types: body paint or the finish that you apply to the siding of the house, and trim paint or the finish that you apply to doors, windows, gutters, etc. Trim paint is different in that it is formulated with special resins that dry to a semi-gloss finish which is easier to keep clean than body paint which is more “elastic” so it can expand and contract with outside temperature changes. Body paint (sometimes called “structure” paint) also looks better on rough surfaces often found on siding: wood, concrete, brick.



WHAT TYPE PAINT SHOULD YOU BUY?

Latex finish paint can be used on most surfaces. Some surfaces will require a primer undercoat. You can buy latex especially formulated for masonry and aluminum siding. Contrary to popular belief latex may be applied over exterior oil paint IF the oil paint is tightly bonded to the surface and deglossed. Latex paint may be applied in temperatures between 50° and 80°F, and even when the surface to be painted is slightly damp. The material won't lap. It is almost odorless, thinned with water, and fade-, fume-, and mildew-resistant. Since it's water-based, tool clean-up can be under the kitchen sink faucet. You can buy latex in a wide range of pre-mixed colors; prices are comparable with other types of paint—sometimes even a tad less expensive.

Acrylic finish paint. This finish has all the features of latex finish paint, but it dries faster. It is a type of latex paint in formulation. Its cost is usually slightly higher than latex finish paint. Like latex, it may be applied with a brush, roller, pad painter, and spray gun.

Alkyd finish paint may be applied to any surface but unprimed masonry and metals. It is thinned with turpentine or mineral spirits; the finish dries more slowly than latex or acrylic. Alkyd finish is recommended for chalking surfaces. It may be applied with a brush, roller, or spray gun.

Oil finish paint is formulated for most surfaces. It is slow-drying, however, if this is a consideration and it is solvent thinned. It may be brushed, rolled, or sprayed on the surface.

Trim paint is available in the Big 4: latex, acrylic, alkyd, or oil finishes. It is made for windows, doors, shutters, fascia and other "trim" parts of a house. In latex, you can buy it color-matched to body paint. This is called a "latex system".

Masonry finish paint. Latex is excellent. So is Portland cement mixtures and alkyd and epoxy.

For porches/decks/steps, use a finish called "porch & deck" enamel. It can be latex, acrylic, alkyd,

oil, rubber, polyurethane. It can be applied with a brush, roller, floor brush, or a squeegee. Check the label on the container for specific, special data.

Exterior Stain is available for wood shakes and shingles, plywood siding, panel siding, decks, and outdoor furniture pieces. There are two types: semi-transparent if you want to see the wood under the stain, and pigmented if you don't want to see much of the wood under the stain. Buy pigmented stain for plywood siding. The "plugs" in plywood siding are synthetic and will not take semi-transparent stain without showing the plug.

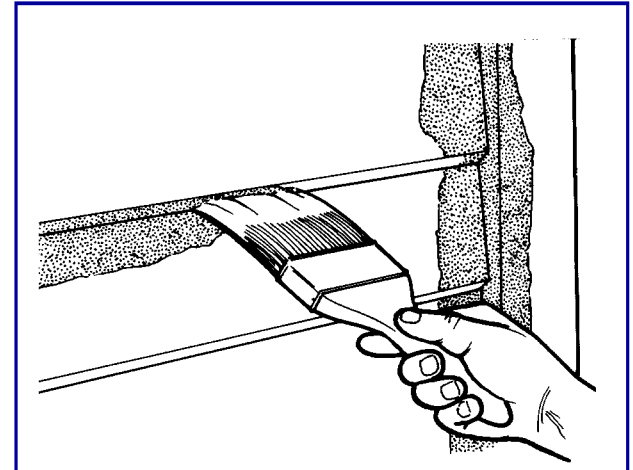
Primers are especially formulated for both old and new wood and metal. Use a primer instead of thinning finish paint. You will be dollars ahead if you do, since thinning finish paint dilutes it so it doesn't furnish the best bonding surface as a primer does.

Plastic finishes. Use marine formulated paints on fiberglass. Do not paint other types of plastic. The results could be very disappointing.

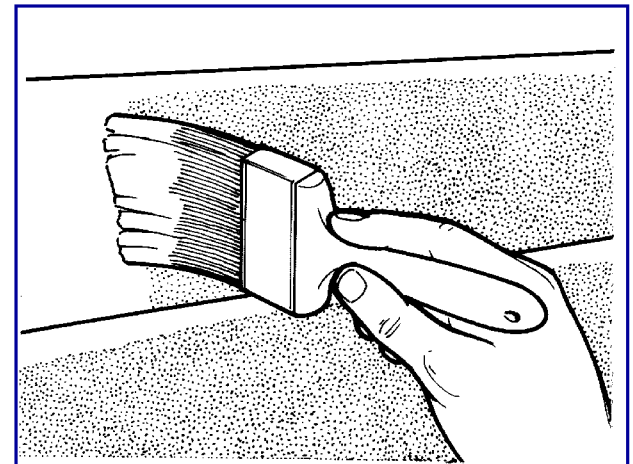
Wood roofs. The finish should be a water-repellent preservative. Never paint a wood roof with standard paint. Wood roofs hold moisture; the paint will pop off the surface and cause a mess. If you want to change the color of a wood roof, use a semi-transparent stain. Brush it on.

Asphalt roofs. Use an asphalt bituminous roof coating only. A solvent-thinned paint will dissolve the shingles. You will need at least two coats of finish to cover the roof surface. Sometimes three coats are necessary. Brush, roll, spray.

Metal roofs can be painted with most any metal paint. The roof must be cleaned and primed, however, for best results. Do not use standard paint; it will pop off the metal due to moisture. If the metal is terne, a tin-steel alloy, use an iron-oxide primer. The finish paint can be latex or alkyd.



Paint corners and under the courses of lap siding and shingles first. Do a couple of rows, working from top to bottom. Tip the brush up so the edges of siding/shingles are properly covered.



Distribute the paint on the surface so the surface is thoroughly covered. Work from a dry surface into a wet surface with the brush tip.

CLEAN THE SURFACE

Mildew. The surface must be cleaned before painting it with a finish formulated with mildewcide. To clean away mildew, use on quart of household bleach, two-thirds cup of any cleaner containing trisodium phosphate all mixed in three quarts of warm water. Plan to use lots of elbow grease and have lots of patience. If you have mildew removed professionally, steam will be used.

Soot. Give your house a bath, using a cup of trisodium phosphate and powdered laundry detergent mixed in 4 quarts of water. Rinse after washing with a stiff brush or auto washing brush on a handle.

PAINT BRUSHES

Paint brushes are made with natural or synthetic bristles. Natural bristles should never be used with a latex or water-based paint, because the bristles absorb water and become mop-like.

Handles of brushes should be comfortable in your hand and easy to clean. Grip the bristles. The brush should feel “full.” The bristles also should fan out slightly and not clump when pressed against the palm of your hand and they should spring back into their original position afterward.

The tips of natural bristles should be flagged. The flags (like several little bristles jutting off the end of a main bristle) offer more brushing bristles.

Most exterior paint jobs can be handled with three size brushes—or types: a 4-in. brush for siding and big surfaces; a 1 to 1-1/2-inch trim brush; a 2- to 2-1/2-inch sash brush. It is recommended that you do not buy larger brushes to make the job go faster. You will find brushes over 4-inches wide unwieldy and too heavy to swing. Use a roller if you want “width.”

ROLLER APPLICATION

A roller has two parts: a frame and a cover. Roller frames and covers are a standard size, but the covers vary as to thickness and composition of the nap. The nap will be specified on the roller cover package as short, medium, or long. Short nap, about 1/4-inch thick, is used to apply paint to smooth surfaces such as aluminum and wood lap siding.

Medium nap covers are used for semi-rough surfaces, while long nap covers are used for rough surfaces such as concrete block and brick.

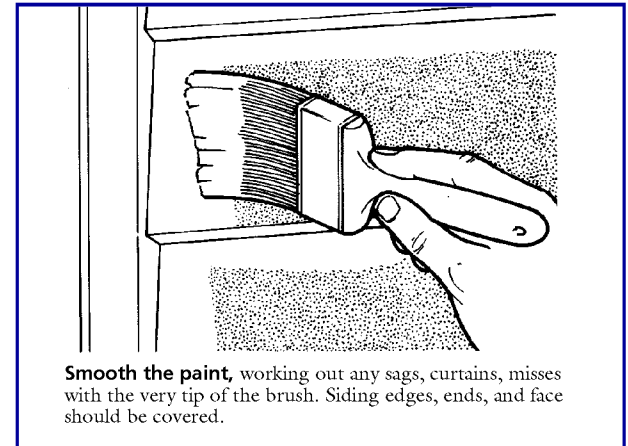
Most roller frames are threaded inside the end of the handle to accept an extension handle for working higher than an easy reach. You can buy an extension or use a standard-size screw-on mop handle. An extension is recommended.

The best buy in roller pans are the ones that have ribbed bottoms. The roller cover rolls across the ribs and picks up paint more evenly. Also, you can fit the bottom of the pan with metal hardware cloth which lets the cover pick up more paint evenly.

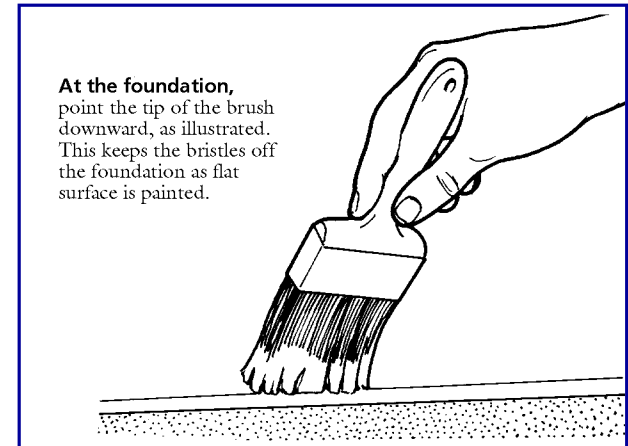
A PLAN FOR PAINTING

Organization makes any job go faster and exterior painting is no exception. By following this checklist your project should move right along with speed:

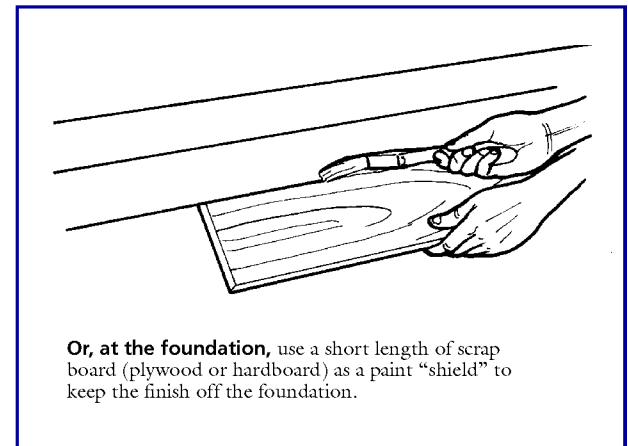
- 1 Give your house a bath. Use trisodium phosphate mixed with water and apply this solution with a long-handled car wash brush. Start washing the house from the top and work your way down. When you're finished, rinse the house with a garden hose and let the job set a week or so until the surfaces are dry.
- 2 Estimate your paint needs and buy the paint and equipment. A gallon of body paint on a “normal” surface will cover approximately 300 square feet. Double this for dry masonry surfaces. You will need one gallon of trim paint for every 4 gallons of body paint.
- 3 Repair any building component that is damaged, i.e., roofing, gutters and downspouts, cracked and split siding, crumbling mortar joints, loose boards and casings.
- 4 Remove window and door screens and all exterior hardware such as house numbers, mailboxes, and so forth.
- 5 If you plan to paint the foundation of your home or siding that extends almost to ground level, trim away any vegetation touching the house and pull grass and weeds next to the foundation.



Smooth the paint, working out any sags, curtains, misses with the very tip of the brush. Siding edges, ends, and face should be covered.



At the foundation, point the tip of the brush downward, as illustrated. This keeps the bristles off the foundation as flat surface is painted.



Or, at the foundation, use a short length of scrap board (plywood or hardboard) as a paint “shield” to keep the finish off the foundation.

