



Step-By-Step Guide for Exterior Painting



Preparation

1. Remove loose, flaking, chalky or blistered paint with a paint scraper, putty knife and wire brush. Loose paint can also be removed with a power washer. Sand the edges of the areas where paint has been removed to create a smooth surface.
2. Fill gouges or holes in wood siding with an exterior-grade patching compound. If damage is more extensive, replace the damaged piece(s) altogether.
3. Seal cracks, seams and gaps with paintable exterior caulk.
4. Clean the outside of the house from top to bottom. If you use soap, rinse the siding well. Allow the surface to dry.
5. Mask off areas that are not to be painted. You can put newspaper or plastic drop cloths over areas like windows, doors, sidewalks and driveways to protect them from drips.

Painting

1. Paint in the following order: 1) gables, 2) main siding, 3) window trim, 4) siding trim, 5) doors.
2. When painting siding, always paint from the top down, and paint next to the trim first, creating a border about 2" to 3" from the edge of the trim. Then begin painting the rest of the siding, remembering to paint under the edge.
 - a) Paint in small sections of three to four clapboards and a few feet at a time, applying a fresh brush full of paint to unpainted areas and working back into the areas you've already done.
 - b) Be sure to paint in the direction of the siding.
3. When the siding is dry, paint the window trim, siding trim and doors.
4. When painting a door, follow these easy steps:
 - a) Give the door a quick wash and rinse, letting it dry completely.
 - b) Next, just cover the metal hinges so they don't get covered in paint – a couple coats of rubber cement should do the trick. Mask the doorknob, lock and any other hardware as well.
 - c) Start by painting the frame, making sure to work up from the inside bottom, across the top and then down the other side. This is done best with a 2" to 2.5" brush. When you start on the door, use a 4" brush or foam roller.