



Karl Aghassi Jr.'s Home Remodeling Co.



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Since
1988

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STEPS TO A PERFECT PAINT JOB

- Prime new wood or metal.
- Clean all surfaces. Use detergent such as trisodium phosphate to remove grease, dirt, grime, or chalk. A solution of chlorine bleach will kill mildew. (Be careful about using bleach with other cleaners – many mixtures can cause hazardous fumes.) Outdoors, a power washer will dislodge flaking or blistered paint along with dirt and chalk.
- Remove loose paint. Use a paint scraper, wire brush, rasp, or sandpaper. For larger areas, consider a power sander, but only if you're sure the paint is lead-free. If you scrape down to wood, apply a primer.
- Patch holes in with plaster or compound. Sand lightly until smooth.
- Block rust and water. Remove rust down to bare shiny metal. Cover nail heads that could rust with wood filler and primer. Apply sealer over knots so they don't bleed. Caulk cracks and other sources of moisture penetration.
- Rough up glossy paint. Use sandpaper or a liquid de-glosser.
- Dress appropriately. Wear goggles and dust mask when removing paint. Wear rubber gloves for protection against chemical detergents and solvents. Clean up thoroughly. Dust is especially hazard to children.
- Use the right tools. Brushes are best for exterior painting, especially on textured surfaces or shingles. Use a natural-bristle brush with alkyd paint, synthetic bristles with latexes. Natural bristles absorb the water in latex paints and become limp and heavy. Use rollers on interior walls and ceilings.



Exterior paints. What to choose for already painted exterior surfaces usually depends on the paint that's already there on the exterior surface. We recommend the same type you used last time – oil over oil, latex over latex. That way, mechanical stresses in the combined film that can lead to blistering and peeling are reduced. For bare wood, we recommend latex over an oil-based primer.

Siding colors. Tend to be conservative white or subdued pastels, while trim hues are rich and bold. Exterior latex and alkyd paints are formulated to withstand strong sunlight and the weather, most also combat mildew, though latexes usually do better. (Mildew, a fungal deposit that can accumulate on surfaces, particularly in hot, humid conditions, is primarily found on the north, shady side of a structure. It washes off with a solution of bleach and water.)

A white paint that “chalks” continually sloughs off dirt along with the chalky powder, so it appears fresh and clean longer. A dark hue, on the other hand, masks the buildup of dirt. Drying speed, surface stickiness, and smoothness of the dried coating also affect how paint resists dirt.

Rust protecting paint. Oil based products are best because they're tougher and more water resistant than latex paints. Most rust protecting paint contains rust inhibiting compounds, but if the surface is prepped correctly, you don't need special products. Grind or sand off all existing rust down to bright metal, prime it, and you can use almost any paint for the top coat. Resist the temptation to try a can of spray enamel. Brushed on coats are thicker, sturdier, and cover better.

Basement waterproofing paint. If your basement suffers dampness or mild seepage, a paint might help. Don't count on any paint to halt outright leakage. Even the best basement waterproofing paints we've tested allow a small amount of water to seep through. The type most resistant to water are oil based epoxies – expensive, strong smelling coating that harden through a chemical reaction between a resin and a catalyst. The epoxy must be mixed in precise proportions and applied promptly to a dry surface.

Next best is oil based paint specially formulated for use on masonry. Like epoxy, it must be applied to dry walls or it won't adhere. Cement based powder and water based paint are also available, but they're not as effective, we've found.

Exterior stain. Color selection is less varied with stains than with paints. Grays, browns, and redwood are popular colors.

Stains rely on absorption into the wood. And if a stain can't soak in, it may not cover well, wear prematurely, and not even stick. Many manufacturers advise against using stain on a painted or otherwise sealed surface. On weathered wood, any stain – latex or oil based – should have the advantage over paint, which may adhere poorly.

Interior stain. There are limitations to what you can reasonably expect from an interior wood stain. You can't take a raw piece of pine or fir, apply a stain labeled “mahogany” or “walnut” and expect the wood to look like real mahogany or walnut. It may come close, but that's about the best you can hope for.