



**FRESH LOOK**

**PAINTING SERVICES**

# 10 Steps to a Perfect Paint Job



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# 10 STEPS TO A PERFECT PAINT JOB

## 1. Choose the perfect colour

Regardless of the quality of the paint job, you are not going to be happy unless the colour, tone and shade are right for the room and fixtures. I highly recommend using a decorator to help you choose the right colour. Many paint stores offer this service for a fee and then give you a discount on your paint. Whether you're hiring a professional painter or doing it yourself on evenings and weekends, ensure that your time and money are well spent by choosing the right colour from the start.

## 2. Check for oil-based paint

Oil paints have been popular with painters over the years because of their smooth and shiny finish, particularly on trim and doors. Recently, the Government of Canada has restricted the use of oil-based paints in order to protect the environment and your health from the dangerous chemicals that are released from these paints into the air.

There are still lots of surfaces out there with oil-based paint on them, and you should always check for oil-based finishes on your walls and trim before repainting. This is because water-based latex paints will not stick to oil-based paint – even after the paint cures, it can easily chip or flake in spots.

To check for oil-based paint, dip a soft cloth in an acetone-based nail polish remover. Rub the cloth lightly on the painted surface – if the paint comes off onto the cloth, it is latex. If it doesn't come off easily and just becomes shinier, it is oil. *Hint: When testing white paint, use a coloured rag so the white paint will stand out.*

If you do find oil paint, don't worry – you can still paint over it, as long as you apply a "conversion" primer first. I use Benjamin Moore's Fresh Start. Use one coat of primer to prepare the surface, then it's ready for your choice of latex paint.

### 3. Collect or purchase your materials

It is so much easier to get your work done if you have everything you need before you start. Here is my list of required materials:

- ✓ **Screwdriver/claw hammer/pliers, paint can "key"** – These tools are useful for removing plate covers and picture nails, and for opening paint cans.
- ✓ **Drop sheets** – These will protect your floors and furnishings. I recommend canvas sheets for flooring and plastic to cover furnishings.
- ✓ **Paint** – 1 gallon of paint should cover approximately 400 square feet of wall space. This depends on the quality of paint, the colour you are using, and the colour you are painting over.

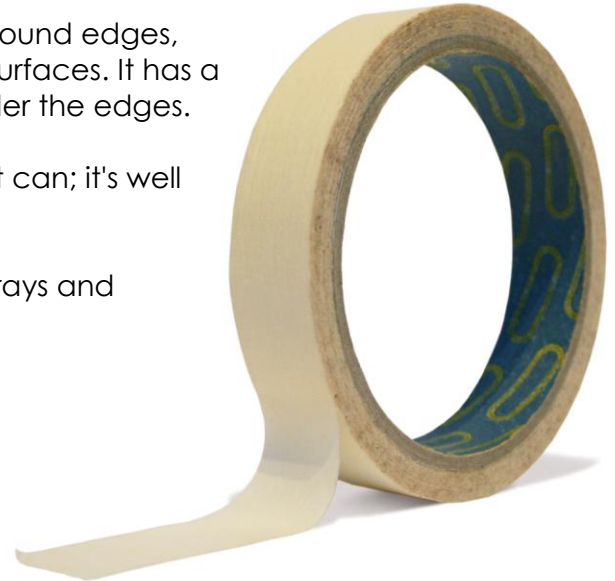


- ✓ **Roller cages** – Have 1 roller cage for each colour in use at any given time, that is, if you're painting two rooms at the same time, you'll need 2 roller cages.
- ✓ **Roller sleeves** – Have 1 roller sleeve for each colour in use at any given time. I recommend a 10mm sleeve for a smooth finish. Use a slit foam roller for stucco ceilings.
- ✓ **Brushes** – Have 1 brush for each colour in use at any given time. Invest in high-quality brushes because they hold more paint and leave fewer brush marks.

- ✓ **Brush comb** – This will help remove paint from between the bristles when you're cleaning your brushes at the end of the job.
- ✓ **Trays** – Consider the depth of the well. The more paint it holds, the less refilling you'll have to do.
- ✓ **Disposable tray liners** – Have 1 liner for each colour of paint. This is an inexpensive way to save a lot of cleanup time.
- ✓ **Pole attachment for rollers** – This will help you to reach ceilings and the tops of walls.
- ✓ **Wall filler (Drydex or Polyfilla)** – Use this to fill holes, dents, cracks and nail pops. I recommend Drydex because it goes on pink and dries white; that way you can be sure it's dry before sanding. And when you sand a surface treated with Drydex, the dust falls to the floor rather than creating a dust cloud that can spread. Drydex also doesn't require priming before you paint like most other filler products.
- ✓ **Putty knife** – Use this to apply your wall filler and to scrape off any peeling paint.
- ✓ **Sand paper** – This will help you to smooth out any repairs or glossy surfaces.



- ✓ **Primer** – Primer enhances adhesion, can prevent stains and bleeding, and will assist the finish coat in achieving a uniform and even finish.
- ✓ **TSPe** – This is an eco-friendly version of a TSP degreaser that you can use to wash surfaces before you paint. It does not need to be rinsed off; just carry on with your painting.
- ✓ **Rags** – Use these to wash walls, clean up drips, wrap brushes and drape over roller trays between coats.
- ✓ **Painter's tape** – To cover up any wood trim or to tape around edges, I recommend ScotchBlue's Painter's Tape for Delicate Surfaces. It has a smoother feel and allows less bleeding of the paint under the edges.
- ✓ **Ladder** – Look for a ladder that has a shelf for your paint can; it's well worth the money if you're doing a large project.
- ✓ **Garbage bags** – Have large ones handy to store paint trays and smaller ones to wrap up roller sleeves between coats.



## **4. Prepare and clean your room**

Please don't skimp on these steps! A properly prepared surface is essential to a longer lasting paint job. First, remove the furniture or cluster it in one area of the room. Cover all furnishings and floors with drop cloths. Remove pictures and mirrors. *Hint: Only remove nails for pictures you are not putting back up. That's because once you remove a nail or screw and put it back in the same place, it is never as secure.*

Take down any draperies and their hardware. Loosen light fixtures and fans and wrap them with plastic bags. Finally, remove wall plates from electrical outlets and switches.

Next, clean the room to remove any soot, grease, cigarette smoke and/or dirt. Do not try to paint over glossy surfaces – treat them first with TSPe. This process also allows you to get very familiar with the walls and find nails pops and dents you will want to fill.

Also ensure that the floors are clean and dust free. Otherwise, debris from the floor can get into the paint and create blemishes in the finish.

## **5. Repair and sand any trouble spots**

Use your putty knife to scrape away loose or peeling paint, then repair any holes or cracks with wall filler (Drydex). When you're finished your repairs, sand over those areas so that you have a smooth surface for painting.

## **6. Apply primer where required**

Primer is required for any surface that has never been painted, as well as surfaces that have been repaired and sanded (*NOTE: If you've used Drydex for your repairs, you will not need primer*). If you are making a drastic change in colour, you must prime those areas as well.

## **7. Apply first topcoat**

Work the room from the top down – if you're painting the ceiling, do it first (remember: for stucco ceilings, use a slit foam roller). When painting the walls, cut in with your brush about 4 inches from the ceiling, corners and baseboards. If you are not an experienced painter, I recommend you use painter's tape to protect the ceiling, window frames and baseboards from accidental transfer.

While the paint is still wet, go back and use a roller to paint the remaining surface, trying to get as close to the edges as possible. This technique will create a smooth finish with minimum brush marks. Go back over previously painted areas and reroll if necessary to remove any ridges caused by the roller edge. *Hint: To avoid roller marks, never leave a wall in the middle of a coat.*

Between coats, keep the paint brush and tray damp by creating a tent out of a wet cloth. Wrap the roller in a small plastic bag to keep it from drying out.

## **8. Second coat**

Even with new paints that claim they cover in one coat, I recommend you use two to ensure uniform coverage, durability and wash-ability. As well, your first coat can "shrink" as it dries, creating weak areas that look like missed spots.

## **9. Paint the trim**

Once the walls are completely dry, paint the mouldings, baseboards, door and window frames with a 2-inch angled brush. Start at the top of doors and frames and work your way down, watching for runs. Use tape to protect the walls if you are using a different colour for your trim.

## **10. Clean up**

Before you start to clean up, check your work carefully and touch up where necessary. Wash brushes with soapy water, and use a brush comb to help work the paint out of the brush. Reshape the brush and allow it to dry naturally.

Paint dries from the top down and is not fully cured for about three weeks. If possible, wait until the paint is completely dry before you pull up the drop cloths, so as not to disturb the finish. You should also wait at least one day to put the outlet and switch covers back up. If you can, wait the full three weeks before hanging pictures or washing the walls (see individual manufacturer's instructions on the paint can).

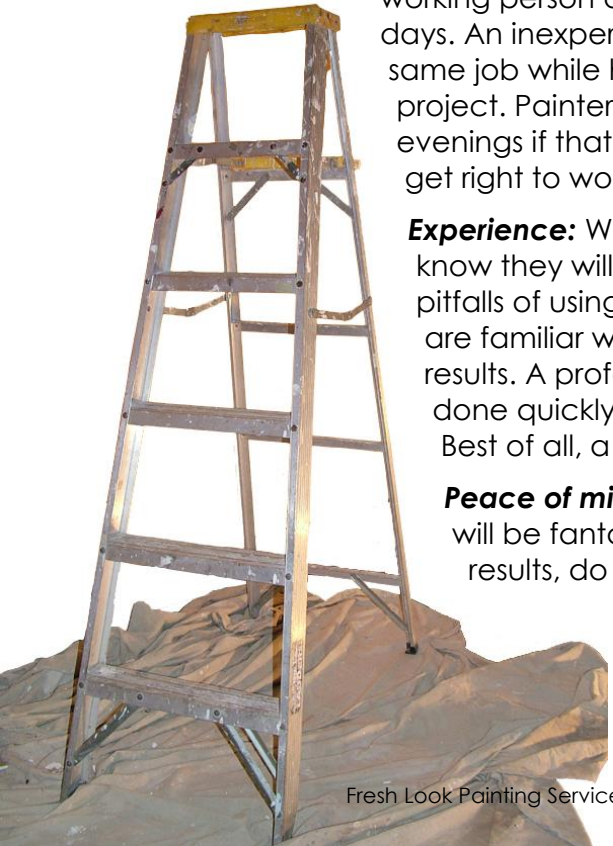


## Why Hire a Professional Painter?

**Efficiency:** A professional painter can complete a job in a fraction of the time a working person or couple can – completing an entire house in as little as a few days. An inexperienced painter who works full time might take months to do the same job while having to cope with the mess and disorganization of a painting project. Painters work full days, Monday to Friday, or even weekends and evenings if that works better for your family or business. Painters come in and get right to work – they mean business, because this IS their business.

**Experience:** When you hire a professional for any project, it's because you know they will do a better job than if you did it yourself. Experience avoids the pitfalls of using substandard products or techniques; and experienced painters are familiar with the current products and know which tools will get the best results. A professional painter has all the necessary equipment to get the job done quickly and easily, especially when dealing with high walls and ceilings. Best of all, a true professional will guarantee your satisfaction.

**Peace of mind:** You will know before the project starts that the end result will be fantastic – much better than if you did it yourself. To ensure the best results, do your homework before you choose a professional painter to ensure they are qualified, knowledgeable and experienced. Ask for references to find out what previous customers thought of the painter's work.



## Why Hire Fresh Look Painting?

**We love our customers and it shows.** We answer messages promptly. We ask a lot of questions upfront to ensure we know exactly what you want. We stick to our agreed upon time frame and quote. We listen to your concerns and provide solutions. We work together with our clients to ensure the end result is something we can both be proud of.

**We offer a free colour consultation with a trained decorator.** No matter how great a job we do with your project, if the colour isn't right, you won't be happy. That's why we provide a complimentary consultation with a decorating professional.

**We work around the schedule of busy families and offices.** We offer extended hours for rush jobs and weekend hours for commercial offices.

**We offer a fair price.** If you choose a professional service based solely on price, you get what you pay for. We know that our price isn't the lowest out there, but our experience, pride and customer testimonials will back it up. And, with our service guarantee, you really can't lose!

**Our customers love us, too.** It's important to hire a painter you trust. After all, much of the work takes place when you aren't around. At Fresh Look Painting, we have many letters from raving fans who describe how happy they were with our work (copies are available on request). We look forward to adding you to that list.

**REMEMBER: We offer a no-obligation quote and service guarantee.**