

# DIY Painting Guide

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## Easter is last chance to paint exterior

While our weather seems more unpredictable than ever this year, Easter is probably your last chance to paint the outside of your home before winter.

According to Michael Beresford of the Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute, the Easter weather usually makes it a great time to paint.

### Check the weather forecast

"As well as checking that you have the right brushes, rollers, sandpaper and other tools, it's vital that you check the weather forecast before you start painting, he said.

"Painting in extreme heat or cold can prevent the formation of a good, durable paint film so Easter's usually moderate temperatures make it an ideal time for exterior painting."

If the paint is applied when the temperature is too low, the microscopic particles in the paint's binder will not fuse

together to form the tough, continuous paint film that protects the surface underneath.

### Plan your painting

To avoid problems with varying temperatures during the day it pays to plan your painting approach.

In the cold of the early morning it is preferable to avoid painting the side of the house that is in shadow because the surface may be too cold.

Paint durability can also be affected if it dries too quickly.

To prevent the paint from drying too fast or blistering on very hot days, it is best to avoid painting in direct sunlight because the surface temperature can be much higher than the air temperature.

Try painting the shady side first and/or cooling the surface with a light spray of water before applying the paint. By painting in the shade you will not only get a



better result but you'll also find it more comfortable to work!

### Rain no excuse to stop work!

If it should rain just before you are about to start painting that

doesn't necessarily mean you have an excuse to stop work for the day.

Once the surface has dried so that it is not visibly wet, water based acrylic paints can be applied. On the other hand, you'll have to wait until the surface is

completely dry if you are using oil based paints.

Even if the day is moderately warm, avoid painting if it is extremely windy. The wind not only causes water based paint to dry very quickly it can also create dust that will ruin your paint job.

### Ideal painting conditions

So, what are the ideal conditions for painting?

The Paint Quality Institute recommends painting on days of little wind and when the expected temperature is between 15°C and 30°C. NEVER paint on excessively cold (below 10°C), rainy or very humid days.

"An ideal painting day has a temperature of between 15°C and 30°C, humidity of between 20% and 80%, little or no wind and a slightly overcast sky," said Michael.

"With a bit of luck, Easter will provide these ideal conditions." ■



## Pick up a mouse before you pick up a brush!

If you ever wondered how to achieve a quality paint job, the experts reckon you should hit the Internet before you pick up a brush!

Everything you ever needed to know about quality paint and painting is now available at the Paint Quality Institute website.

In Australia, contact [www.paintquality.com.au](http://www.paintquality.com.au) and in New Zealand, [www.paintquality.co.nz](http://www.paintquality.co.nz)

A virtual encyclopaedia of painting and decorating information for your home, the website has been designed specifically for Do-it-Yourself painters. The site also contains links to PQI's websites in other countries, including USA, China, UK, France, Germany and Brazil.

Presented in an easy-to-navigate format and easy-to-understand language, the site has the answers for almost any question

about paint, whether you are a novice or more experienced Do it Yourself (DIY) painter.

"The site is an invaluable tool for anyone who is contemplating painting their home" said Michael Beresford, Manager of the Paint

Quality Institute (PQI) in the Asia Pacific Region.

"It has a wealth of practical advice, solutions to all your paint problems and information that will keep the DIYer at the cutting edge of new paint technology, painting techniques, colour and design trends."

"The information provided by PQI is backed by local and international expertise, is full of practical tips and, because PQI is

paint brand-neutral, the new web site can provide you with objective, generic advice," he said.

The new PQI site features:

- Ideas and inspiration to personalise, dramatise or update the interior and exterior of your home using colour and decorative paint techniques;
- Step by step instructions on how to achieve a high quality interior and exterior paint job from the importance of thorough surface preparation to selecting the right tools and applying the final coat;
- A problem solver section with photographs for easy identification of paint problems and sound solutions to fix them;
- How to choose the right paint for different surfaces and areas in the home;

- A calculator to quantify the volume of paint required according to the type of paint and surface being painted;
- The secrets of choosing the right painting contractor to suit your needs; and
- The four rules of painting to achieve a quality paint job.

The website also includes a glossary to explain the terminology of paint ingredients and painting terms, together with answers to the most frequently asked questions about paint and painting.

If you can't find the answer you need on the website, you can ask a specific question by contacting the Paint Quality Institute using the site's email link. ■

### Media Note

Text, photos and graphics from this special DIY Painting Guide, as well as other articles and images can be downloaded from our websites at:

[www.paintquality.com.au](http://www.paintquality.com.au)  
[www.paintquality.co.nz](http://www.paintquality.co.nz)

Just click on Press Room and follow the links to DIY Painting Guide.

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# Four steps to 'winterising' your home's exterior

A quality paint job is the best and most cost effective barrier between your home's exterior and the ravages of the weather – rain, hail and airborne pollutants – in winter.

And the bonus is that while a new paint job protects the substrate from the elements, it also adds value to your home.

Some people are apprehensive about painting but the experts at The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute say it's not as complicated as you might think.

In fact, you can achieve a great looking paint job by following four simple steps.

## #1



### Prepare the surface properly

The key to a good paint job is a properly prepared surface. Even the best paints will fail if the surface is not clean and sound. The main things to look out for are:

- Remove any mildew: Apply a solution of one part bleach and three parts water to the surface and let it sit for about 20 minutes, then rinse with clean water.

The solution can be harmful, so protect your skin, eyes and any shrubs nearby.

- Remove any loose, flaking or peeling paint: Scrape and sand the surface. You also need to sand any glossy areas to dull them so the paint will adhere.

Then scrub with a detergent and water solution to remove any dirt and chalk, rinsing with clean water afterward. Wear eye protection and work gloves.

- Prime any bare areas: Use a top quality exterior primer. Alternatively, a self priming premium acrylic topcoat can be used for many surfaces. Follow the direction on the label.

## #2



### Use the right tools and brushes

It pays to choose good quality rollers and brushes because they last longer and apply the paint more heavily and smoothly.

- Choose brushes that are well balanced: Bristles should be tightly packed and tapered up to the centre of the brush.
- Water based paints need synthetic brushes and rollers: Natural bristles will absorb water from the paint and swell, resulting in uneven application.
- Oil based paints can be applied with either synthetic or natural brushes and rollers.
- For best results: Dampen bristles prior to painting.

## #3



### Paint in the right weather conditions

- Ideal painting

temperatures: Paint when the temperature is between 15°C and 30°C, and when there is little or no wind.

- Avoid painting in direct sunshine: This can cause the paint to dry too fast and even to blister.
- Listen to the weather forecast: If the temperature is predicted to drop below the paint manufacturer's recommendation for minimum application temperature in the next day or two, consider postponing your project.

## #4



### Use the right paint for the job

- Choose a paint that is designed

for the job you're doing: In most cases, a 100% acrylic water based paint will be the best choice because it adheres better, is more flexible and lasts longer than ordinary paint.

- Buy a top quality paint: You might save a few dollars using a lower quality paint but it will cost more in the long run as you will have to repaint much sooner.
- Never use an interior paint for an exterior job: Manufacturers formulate paints for specific uses and an interior paint will not last on an exterior.

So, when tackling your next exterior home painting project, follow these steps and you'll achieve a long-lasting, attractive paint job. ■

# Thicker than most!

With so many kinds of paint available today, selecting the right type for the exterior can be pretty confusing.

Most Do-it-Yourself painters choose a water based rather than an oil based paint. But what quality of water based paint should you choose?

The smart answer is one that's thicker than most!

This doesn't mean thicker in the can; it's the thickness on the wall that really counts, according to The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute.

Each coat of a top quality paint gives a thicker paint film than can be achieved with a lesser quality product, and a thicker paint film means greater protection for your home.

While it may cost more than ordinary house paint, top quality water based acrylic paints contain ingredients that give them the edge in performance and give you better value in the long run.

Top quality acrylic paints can last 10 years or more compared with only four or five years for ordinary water based paints.

They offer a significantly longer period between repaints, look better over time and save you time and money.

Why do top quality acrylic paints perform so well?

The answer lies in what is in the can.

The ingredient that helps the paint stick to the wall is the binder. A 100 percent acrylic binder provides superior adhesion so the paint will maintain a tight grip on the surface.

The acrylic binder ensures a tough but flexible paint film that expands and contracts as the outside temperatures rise and fall. The acrylic also gives excellent protection against the ravages of the sun's Ultra Violet rays.

Top quality paints also contain higher quality pigments. These pigments cost more than those used in ordinary paints but they retain their colour and hide the surface underneath much better.

The combined effect of these quality ingredients is a paint job that can last years longer, looks better and provides the best

protection for the exterior of your home.

So, next time you are shopping for an exterior paint, choose from the several reputable brands of paint now available and select their top line exterior acrylic paint. It will be thicker than most on the wall...but that's the smart answer when you want to give your home the best

protection available.



# New colours can be fun ... and add value

The exterior of your home is a bit like your personal advertising billboard.

It gives people a visual cue about you and your tastes, so a drab, run down exterior might not give out the kind of message you would like!

When it comes to the exterior, many people simply choose to repaint using the same colours that already exist on their home.

But if you want your home to feel fresh, alive and up to date, maybe you should think about a new colour scheme for the exterior that reflects your lifestyle.



Many people find choosing a new colour scheme quite a daunting task but it can be fun...and add value to your most important investment.

So here are a few tips from The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute (PQI) that will help guide you through the process.

## Housing style

Colour schemes from the Victorian era with their elaborate combinations of four or five colours are unlikely to be effective on the clean, uncluttered lines of a modern home.

Whether your home is a Victorian, Edwardian, Between the Wars, Contemporary, Georgian, Queenslander or modern style, there is likely to be a number of colour combinations that will look best.

Most paint manufacturers offer colour cards that cover different eras as well as current styles. Plus you'll find the people behind the counter at your local paint store are usually more than happy to

share their knowledge.

For more inspiration, you can turn to design magazines and the Internet, including the design section of the PQI website at:

[www.paintquality.com.au](http://www.paintquality.com.au)  
[www.paintquality.co.nz](http://www.paintquality.co.nz)

## Colours you can't change

Your colour scheme may be influenced by the areas you would not wish to paint such as the roof or a design feature in a natural stone.

## Consider the neighbours

Look at the hues of neighbouring homes – particularly those next door.

You probably wouldn't want a colour scheme that is exactly the same as your neighbour but, on the other hand, you don't want one that will clash with it either.

The colour of the garden and plantings near your home may also influence the colours you choose.

## Check for restrictions

Of course, some areas have restrictions on the colours that can be used.

For example, government regulations may restrict the choice of colours in an area where they are trying to maintain the character of historic homes.

There are also sometimes restrictions on modern housing developments or townhouse communities.

To avoid the disappointment of having to repaint, it pays to check with local authorities before you put your preferred colours on a wall!

## Make your colour scheme last

A new exterior colour scheme will freshen the look and feel of your home but choosing a colour scheme, buying and applying the paint takes time and money.

To make sure your new paint job looks good and will last as long as possible, the experts at PQI

recommend using only a top quality, water based paint for exterior applications.

Top quality paints adhere better and have better resistance to mildew, fading and peeling than ordinary paints so they provide better value in the long run.

Make sure you select colours that are designated as suitable for exterior use.

Just check with your local paint retailer about which top quality paint he or she recommends for the exterior surface you want to paint. ■

