



CREATING CARING COMMUNITIES

PAINTING TIPS

BY HIGNELL PAINTING SERVICES

Q: *What do I look for in a good painting company?*

A: A reputable painting company will have no problem answering the following questions: Do they have a state contractor's license? Do they have any complaints filed against them? Do they carry both Worker's Compensation insurance on their employees and business liability insurance in case of damage to your property (or that of your neighbor's)? How long have they been in business? Do they have references who you can contact? Do they use journeymen painters who have years of experience in the trade? Do they sub-contract their work or pay their own employees by the hour (so they don't hurry or cut corners)? Do they use a professional bid package? Are they on time for their appointments and have their estimate to you in a timely manner? Do they warranty both material and labor? Are they members of any professional associations? Finally, can you trust them with your most valuable asset - your home?

Q: *What is involved in exterior surface preparations?*

A: We always powerwash to clean the house. This ensures good adhesion, removes loose paint, and applies a prime coat to any raw wood. The amount of caulking we do depends on what our client is looking for. We normally caulk all wood siding to wood trim as well as all the joints of wood trim. We use a special elastomeric patch for cracks in stucco to prevent them from reappearing. We then completely cover all windows and any surfaces that are not to be painted, and cover the perimeter of the home with drop cloths and/or shields. The house should now be ready to paint.

Q: *What kind of paint should I use?*

A: Material costs usually only make up about 15 to 30 percent of the total price of a paint job, so this is not a good area to skimp to save money. Oil based paints are not what they used to be and manufacturers have come a long way in developing latex paints. On the body & trim we use top of the line 100 percent acrylic latex from a manufacturer that only sells paint. Some of our clients prefer lo-sheen or semi-gloss enamels because they are easier to keep clean. Just remember that the higher the gloss rating, the more noticeable surface imperfections and rough wood will be.

Q: *How do I choose attractive paint colors?*

A: We take pride in helping clients select colors that will make their homes look distinctively attractive while fitting into their surroundings. Many people don't realize that colors often reflect styles, which is why Terra Cotta, which looks great on a Spanish style home. Having painted hundreds and hundreds of homes, we know colors and combinations that you won't find anywhere else in your neighborhood that will make friends and even passersby stop and compliment your home.

Q: *How many gallons will it take to paint my house?*

A: Paint quantities are figured on the square footage of the surface area to be painted. Paint will cover between 200-350 square feet per gallon, depending on how rough the surface is. Smooth lap siding will take less paint than a textured stucco or vertical T-I-11 siding. An average 1,700 square foot single story house will take about 25 to 30 gallons for the body and three to four gallons for trim. Again, this is not a good area to skimp to save money. We never thin down the paint with water. We also backroll rough surfaces, such as textured stucco or rough sawn wood, as this forces the paint into all the cracks and crevices.