

When Should You Paint?

(NC)—Get ready to paint your house when exterior surfaces begin to show wear. Wood grain will begin to show clearly, primer will show through the outside paint and the colour of the old paint will fade.

If you repaint too often you'll end up with a too-thick coating that's likely to crack and break away. The coating will be too thick to adjust to weather changes (from hot sun to bitter wind) and to the natural structural shifts of the house. If you don't repaint soon enough and the paint surface deteriorates, it will take hard work to restore its smoothness. You may need to sand down to the bare surface and begin again as if it were new work. Keep an eye on the condition of your exterior paintwork so you will be able to judge the right time for a new paint job.



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You Will Need

- paint
- paint primer (different kinds for wood and metal)
- linseed oil
- solvent
- wire brush and steel wool
- paint scraper
- cleaning solution for mildew (or bleach and water)
- putty
- wood sealer
- caulking compound
- putty knife
- sandpaper
- paint brushes (100 mm, or 4", is best for large areas)
- paint rollers and tray
- paint buckets and paddle or stick
- two stepladders and cross planking
- dripcloths
- hair protection and gloves for yourself

Choosing the Right Paint

Exterior Alkyd Paints

Exterior alkyd (oil base) paints have high hiding and sticking qualities. In many cases only one coat is needed over a properly prepared surface. Alkyd paint covers hairline cracks and seals the surface against moisture. Alkyd paint requires a completely dry, clean surface, dry air and application in tem-

peratures above 5°C (40°F) for best results. Clean up with turpentine or paint thinner.

Exterior Latex Paints

Exterior latex paints may be applied on a damp day (but not in rain or a heavy dew) when air and surface temperatures are above 10°C (50°F). They dry quickly to lessen the chance of spotting by dust and bugs and they "breathe" to allow moisture to escape and so reduce the possibility of blistering or peeling. Clean up with warm water.

Preparation For Painting

Replace all damaged and decayed wood. Check around windows, steps and posts and around the eaves for damaged wood.

Check downspouts and gutters and clean them before painting. Clean rust from all metal areas, using a wire brush and steel wool, then apply metal primer to the cleaned surfaces.

Check all exposed nail heads for rust. Use steel wool to remove rust, then sink nails with a nailset and fill the hole with putty.

Applying The Paint

Choose a day for painting with rain or heavy winds are not expected. Don't

paint if the temperature is likely to be below 10°C (50°F) or above 32°C (90°F).

Follow the instructions on the can of the paint. Make sure the paint is well mixed.

Begin painting the highest parts of the house first and work down.

When painting circular objects like downspouts, paint diagonally at first, then cross the diagonal stroke by painting downward.

Avoid hazards. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions. Keep paint and painting products away from children.

Keep the work area cleaned up before, during and after painting. Get rid of waste (empty paint cans, rags) every day.

Make sure the ladder is secure. Do not overextend your reach.

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Home security tips

- Ensure that your second storey windows cannot be reached by using such things as the garage roof, TV tower, ladder or tree limbs. • Make sure tools and ladders are kept where they cannot be used by a burglar.
- Install locks on interior doors leading to areas such as garages, solariums and basements.
- Always keep your garage door locked.
- If you are away, try to make your house look occupied.
- Inform your neighbours if you are away and know each others' phone numbers.
- Keep police and emergency phone numbers accessible and posted near your phones.
- Mark your valuables for identification, insure them and store them securely. Important documents and some valuables should be stored in safety deposit boxes.
- Inform your family members about your security precautions and ensure they practice good security habits.
- Install an alarm.

IMPROVE YOUR HOME SECURITY TODAY!

Assessing your home's security is the first step in crime prevention. If you answered NO to any of the questions, your home security probably has a weak link that a burglar may exploit.

You can improve your home's security and learn some common sense tips by reading "Protecting Your Home Against Burglary" from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, 682 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7.

Can you afford to buy your dream house?

(NC)—Be it mansion or handyman's special, most Canadians have a clear picture of the home they would like to own.

The costs and fees involved in home ownership play a large part in whether your pocketbook can afford the vision.

When you make the largest investment of your life, there should be no surprises.

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's A Home Selection Guide helps prospective home buyers calculate the total cost of their housing wants and needs.

The booklet recognizes that no two households live alike. Given the same income, one household may have money to spare, while another may find every dollar stretched to the limit.

CMHC has set the desired level of monthly debt at 32 per cent of gross monthly income (the amount before tax

deduction). To calculate your level, add up all monthly housing expenses including mortgage payment, electricity, heat, water and maintenance. Divide this amount by the gross monthly income of the household to find out what percentage is paid for housing.

Next, take a look at the fees normally related to the purchase of a home. Add the mortgage insurance premium, surveyor's certificate, legal fees, household insurance (against fire, theft, and liability), land transfer tax, and the cost of processing a mortgage loan.

Don't forget, when you settle into a new home, you may have to buy furnishings or make renovations and repairs. These items can add 10 per cent or more to other costs during the first two years.

Add this to your normal monthly living expenses to see whether your financial status is as ready to buy a home as you are.



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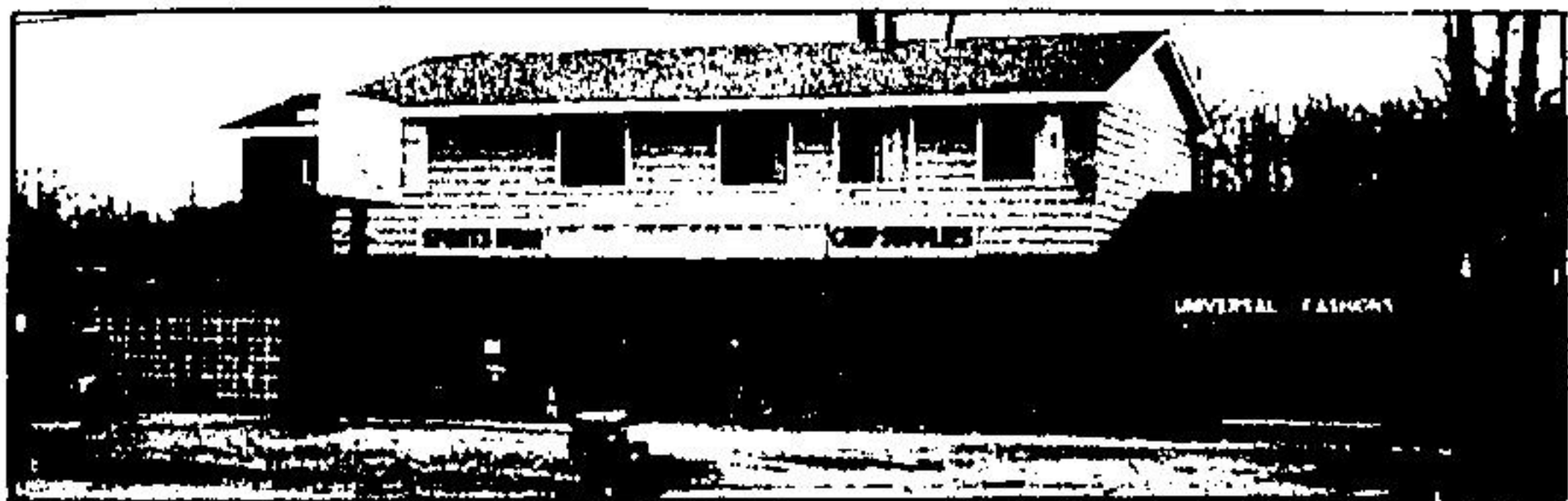
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