

Say You Saw It In *The Independent & Free Press* Real Estate Digest

Follow these suggestions before painting your home this spring

When can I start? Where do I begin? And how much do I need? These are just three of the many questions that all painters ask themselves when the time comes to paint outside. C-I-L Dulux presents some handy tips to help the do-it-yourself answer just about every painting question conceivable.

May, June, July, August, and September are the best months for outdoor painting. A general rule of thumb is that you can paint outdoors when the temperature is between 10°C - 25°C.

Figuring out how much paint you will need is not difficult. Just ask yourself these questions:

1. How big an area must be coated?
2. How many coats are needed?
3. What is the condition of the surface? Then, make the following calculations:

Sides: Calculate the side of the outside of your house by multiplying the length and width of each side and adding them together.

Gables: Multiply the width by the height of the highest point in the gable and divide by two to get the area of one gable. Make this computation for each gable and total all.

Overhanging eaves (if any): If your home has considerable soffit area (eave overhanging), multiply

the length by the width for this total area.

Computation: Add the total square footage (or meterage) for sides, gables, dormers and soffits - the result is the total square footage (or meterage) of the outside of your home. Deduct the square footage (or meterage) of any large areas not to be painted, such as doors, windows, brickwork etc, from the total square footage (or meterage) figure. Consult the charts and the label of the product to be used to establish how much paint should be purchased.

Remember, it's better to be caught with too much paint than too little when painting your home.

Rough or textured surfaces will require more paint than smooth surfaces, because there is actually more surface area to be painted.

Cover up your outside area with drop sheets— this will help keep your gardens clear of paint scraping and spills.

Wear safety glasses whenever you're preparing, cleaning or painting. Wear old clothing and a hat to protect your hair when painting.

Proper surface preparation ensures success the first time and every time. Be sure to scrape, sand and prime the surface and then wash it clean. Some of the tools that you may want to have on hand include: scraper, blades, filling knife for

patching cracks, putty and/or patching compounds, wire brush, sanding block and abrasive sandpaper, a bucket and sponge plus TSP (Tri Sodium Phosphates powdered detergent) for washing areas, appropriate sized ladders, paint can hooks, masking tape, wide flat blade screwdriver to open paint cans, a hammer to close cans, rags, water, varsol or paint thinner, and rubber gloves to wear when you're applying TSP.

When choosing a paint colour, be sure to test in a small area first. The colour you select should compliment your bricks, siding and shingles. Remember that the same color will look different in the store than at home due to different lighting and exposures.

For best results, always take time to read the label instructions carefully. Paint product improvements and new developments are constantly being introduced— so the way you applied paint yesterday may not be right for the product you buy today.

Use proper caulking around your windows and make sure there is adequate drainage for water.

After you have completed all your prep work, start painting your home from the top and work your way down.

For answers to questions about painting, ask your paint dealer.

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