



step by step: painting



step by step: paint the exterior of your home

Painting the exterior of your home is an investment.

Painting will totally transform the appearance of your home, it will protect your home against our harsh climate, and it can add serious value to your property. But it is a big job. You're not going to want to do it again in a hurry, so make sure you do your research when it comes to colour selection. With the proper products and the right advice, this is a project most DIY-ers can manage. Make sure you take care of any necessary repairs before beginning and you're ready to go...

1 Planning

Firstly you'll need to work out what paint you'll need, and how much. Exterior paints come in a wide range of products for different finishes and surfaces. So, use the advice of your paint expert to help you select the perfect paint products for your home.

To work out how much paint you'll need, measure the length and height of the individual walls, and subtract the window and door areas. Add the totals of all of the individual walls together and you will have your grand total area in square metres. One litre of paint covers approximately 16 square metres. Make sure you make an extra allowance of 10 to 20 per cent, especially for porous surfaces and weatherboards.

For a good result, only paint when the weather is dry and the temperature is between 10 and 40 degrees Celsius.

2 Wash up

Wash all surfaces thoroughly. You can buy or rent a high-pressure water sprayer to make the job easier and faster. And consider using sugar soap which will remove all dirt and grease.

3 Remove old paint

Remove any loose – cracked, chipped or blistering – paint with a paint scraper or wire brush and sand it down. Take it back to the original timber or brick surface if necessary.

Use a wire brush to clean away any rust from metal surfaces, like guttering and downpipes, and apply a rust dissolver to clean, dust free metal surfaces.

4 Patch it

Use an exterior filler to patch all nail and screw holes, and any other deep scratches and cracks. Once the filler is dry, sand back to an even surface.

Also use a sealant or filler at 'seams' and corners of the house, around areas like windows and doors.

5 Sand it back

Paint needs a slightly abraded surface to affix properly, so sand all glossy surfaces as well as those areas that are rough. Be sure to remove all dust and debris before beginning painting.

6 Cover up

Remove or mask the fittings and fixtures you won't be painting, including any stained timber or aluminium doors and windows, lighting, door bell and house numbers. Use drop cloths to cover anything else you don't want to paint – your deck, gardens, walkways etc.

7 Remove screens

If you have screens, take the time to remove them now. Trying to clean up later will be time consuming and frustrating.

8 Prime the surfaces

If you have new raw timber, the entire area will need to be primed. If you don't plan on using a primer over all surfaces – and most jobs won't need that – still use a primer to cover any stains, like wood knots, nail rust marks or mildewed areas.

Different products are required for different materials like timber, metal and brickwork so choose the appropriate product. Follow the manufacturers' instructions and allow the primer to dry thoroughly before starting work on your top coats.

9 Apply the paint

Start from the top of the house and work down. Begin with the fascia and under the eaves. Break the job down into smaller areas and using a brush 'cut in' around all the remaining edges. Paint the gutters next, then the walls and finally the downpipes, doors and windows.

You can choose to use a roller or paint brush for the larger areas, depending on the surfaces you are painting; or you can even hire a paint sprayer.

Apply at least two coats of a quality exterior paint. Follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully and let each coat dry properly between applications.



may we suggest...

Careful selection of quality tools and accessories
can turn a daunting job into a manageable one.

Talk to your Bretts paint experts for the right advice.





step by step: paint a panel door

Panel doors are one of the more tricky surfaces to paint around the home, simply because it's fiddly. However doors see a lot of wear and tear – with dirty hand prints

and scuff marks from shoes – so from time to time they are going to need to be painted. But with just a little patience, you'll see it's a DIY project anyone can handle...

1 Preparation

Firstly, you need to prepare the area by making sure the surface is perfectly clean and ready for the paint. We recommend sugar soap for cleaning, followed by a light sand to abrade the surface. This is especially important if you are painting over a gloss finish.

If it is an interior door it's probably in pretty good condition, but if the door is exposed to the elements be sure to remove any loose paint with a paint scraper and patch with an exterior filler, before sanding again.

2 Cut in

Ask your paint expert to help you select the right gloss or semi-gloss paint for your project and begin by painting the panels. Use a quality paint brush to 'cut in' around the corners and grooves of the panels. Do not overload your paint brush – remember you will get a better result if you do two or more light coats.

3 Paint the flat panels

Once you have 'cut in' the panels, use the brush to paint the flat area of the panels. Some people chose to use a small roller as it makes the job much quicker. If you use a roller, run your paint brush over the surface lightly immediately after, just to minimise the stippled texture left by a roller.

4 Paint the door edges

Paint around the edges of the door using only a lightly loaded paint brush, as you don't want the excess paint to form on the front surfaces of your door.

5 Paint the stiles and rails

Finally paint the stiles and rails – the flat surfaces that hold the panels in place. Again, this can be completed with a brush, or rolled and then finished with your brush.

Make sure you work carefully and do not overload either the brush or roller. You will get a professional finish only by applying light coats of paint; to avoid getting any runs in your paintwork.



We are happy to provide Bretts "step by step" project sheets. And our friendly staff are always available to talk through your renovation needs.

However, if you are considering a major building or renovation project, we suggest you speak with a professional first.

You can use our Trade Services Search Directory at www.bretts.com.au to find someone who can help with your project.



step by step: paint your kitchen

Painting offers the biggest "bang for buck" when it comes to renovating. The heat, steam and grease that results from cooking means the kitchen has special needs though, but painting your kitchen's still an easy DIY project. Here's how...

1 Preparation

First, you need to prepare the area by making sure the surface is perfectly clean and ready for the paint. We recommend using Sugar Soap for cleaning.

2 Mask up

Now mask off the kitchen with your painters tape. Tape around all of the surfaces that you won't be painting - including the ceiling. Press the tape firmly to guard against paint bleed.

3 Shake up and pour

Shake the paint bucket thoroughly, then stir. It is important to ensure the paint is properly mixed so be thorough. Pour a small amount of paint onto a painters tray or small bucket to get started.

4 Outline the room

Dip your brush in the paint. You're about to outline the room. While this is the trickiest part of the job, it will affect the overall impact of the room, so be patient. Make sure you use a small brush to get into the fiddly bits around and behind the fittings. If you do 'paint outside the lines', clean up while the paint is still wet, as that's when it easiest to remove excess paint.

5 Roll the rest

Now you can tackle the larger areas with a roller. This will happen much more quickly. Make sure you roll the roller in the paint tray until it is completely covered with paint - but not dripping - to get even coverage.

6 Touch ups

Once you've done painting, leave the room for a while. When you return with "fresh eyes" you can easily spot any areas that need to be touched up. When the paint is completely dry, remove the painters tape. And you're done!

FINAL TIP: See our "step by step: painting laminate & melamine cabinetry" overleaf, to refinish your kitchen cabinets.

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