

# Exterior Painting Tips

**W**orn-down wood? Chipped siding? Rain-damaged panels? It may be time to invest in a little exterior painting to liven up your home's exterior.

Slapping on some new, bright color to the outside of your house can add immediate curb appeal and value, as well as protection from the rain, snow and other elements.

The project can be expensive if you choose to hire professionals, while it can be tedious, time-consuming and logistically difficult for the average homeowner to take on.

## PREP THE PROJECT

If your home's exterior has damage, such as rotting wood or deteriorated window trim, you should consider replacing it before the painting process begins. You may as well spend a little extra time and money completing prepping your home for its new paint job to get full value out of the improvement.

Also, if you're changing from siding to paint, you will have to either remove it yourself or be prepared to pay extra to have it taken care of professionally.



## CHOOSE THE RIGHT COLOR

Your best bet in choosing color is picking one similar to your present exterior color. This will ensure the least amount of coats, therein saving you time and money in the process.

If you're thinking about pulling a complete 180, be sure to consider your existing landscaping, foundation color and even neighborhood color

scheme before settling on a final color.

If you plan on re-selling your home in the coming years, an earth-toned color may be your best bet in keeping things neutral for when your home hits the market.

## SPRAY OR HAND-PAINTED?

The technique you decide to use can play a major factor in the final product looking

good. Most paint companies you will find prefer to spray, which saves them time and money.

Check with prospective contractors to see how much they will charge for hand-painting. They may ask for more based on the added amount of time it would take to complete the project, but the final result may be worth it.