

Homeowner's Guide to Exterior Painting in Snohomish & King County

A homeowner checklist for Exterior Painting

Part 1: Pre-Painting Assessment

- Walk the entire exterior and photograph any peeling, bubbling, or cracked paint.
- Gently poke trim boards and siding with a screwdriver, especially near ground and roof lines, to check for soft, rotted wood.
- Look for any green or black spots (mildew), particularly on the north side and under eaves.
- Check caulking around all windows, doors, and corner boards. Note any gaps or cracks.
- Check that your gutters are clean and not overflowing onto siding or trim.
- If your home is pre-1978, assume lead paint exists and plan for safe handling.

Part 2: Surface Preparation

- Pressure wash or hand scrub all surfaces to be painted. Use a cleaning solution to remove dirt and mildew.
- Allow siding to dry completely for at least 1-2 sunny days.
- Lay drop cloths to protect plants, walkways, decks, and windows.
- Scrape all loose and flaking paint with a quality scraper until you reach a solid edge.
- Sand the scraped edges smooth to blend them with the existing paint.
- Apply primer to all bare wood spots to seal the surface.
- Remove or mask off all lights, outlets, and hardware.

Part 3: Painting & Cleanup

- Confirm the weather forecast has no rain and overnight temperatures will stay above 50°F.
- Apply the first coat of high-quality exterior acrylic paint.
- Wait the manufacturer's recommended time before applying the second coat.
- Apply the second coat for a uniform finish and maximum protection.
- Carefully remove all painter's tape while the final coat is still slightly wet.
- Clean all brushes and rollers thoroughly.
- Inspect the finished work from a distance to check for any missed spots.

Want us to handle it? Schedule a \$499 Home Health Assessment.

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