

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

A homeowner checklist for Interior Painting

Section 1: Room Preparation

- Move all furniture to room center or remove.
- Cover furniture with plastic and floors with canvas drop cloths.
- Remove all switch plates and outlet covers.
- Set up a dedicated station for tools and paint.
- Ensure adequate ventilation by opening a window.

Section 2: Surface Preparation

- Wipe down walls with a TSP substitute or degreaser.
- Identify all nail holes, dings, and cracks.
- Fill holes and cracks with spackle; sand smooth when dry.
- Spot-prime any patched areas.
- Spot-prime any stains with a stain-blocking primer.
- Tape off trim, windows, and ceiling line with painter's tape.
- Press down tape edges firmly to prevent bleeding.

Section 3: Painting

- Stir paint thoroughly before and during use.
- Using an angled brush, 'cut in' a 2-3 inch border around all edges.
- Load roller lightly and roll out excess in the tray.
- Roll paint on walls in a 'W' or 'M' pattern, then fill in.
- Maintain a wet edge to avoid roller marks.
- Allow first coat to dry completely per manufacturer's instructions.
- Apply a second coat for full color and coverage.
- Check for any missed spots or light areas.

Section 4: Cleanup & Finish

- Carefully remove painter's tape while the second coat is still wet.
- Remove all drop cloths and coverings.

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- Wash brushes and rollers thoroughly with soap and water (for latex).
- Replace outlet covers and switch plates.
- Seal paint can tightly and store properly.
- Allow paint to cure for 2-4 weeks before placing furniture against walls.

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