

Chapter 15. Painting

15.1 PLANNING AND PREPARATION

15.2 PRIMING AND PAINTING

15.3 STAINING

15.4 CLEAN-UP

15.5 PREPARATION FOR NEXT BUILD DAY

Tools needed by volunteers:

Tools and equipment needed:

Sawhorses
Extension cords
Portable lights
Marking pen
Extension poles
Paint brushes
Paint roller frames
Paint roller covers
Paint roller scrapers
Paint roller pans
Small paint pails
Drill driver
Paint mixer
Step stools
Empty/clean 5-gallon pails
5' - 10' Garden hose

Materials needed:

Primer
Paint
Stain
Rags
Tapered shims
Disposable roller pan liners
Disposable small paint pail liners
Painter's tape
Mineral spirits
Water (for clean-up)
Plastic wrap or aluminum foil
Large garbage bags

Personal Protection Equipment:

Safety glasses (required)

Safety First! Review the Safety Checklist before performing tasks in this chapter.

15.1. PLANNING AND PREPARATON

1. Determine a painting plan.
 - a. Assign crews as follows
 - Two to three volunteers per room for priming and painting: one or two for cutting in the corners and one to roll the ceiling and walls.
 - One to cut in around all of the windows and the tub/shower insert.
 - One to paint the stairwell.
 - If possible, one to mix paint and keep painter's roller pans and pails filled.
 - b. Start in one of the larger main floor rooms and in the stairwell. The stairwell takes a long time and the larger main floor room can be used for staining once painting is finished.
 - c. As crews finish one room, they can be assigned to another room, as needed, or can stain skirtboards, closet poles and the basement stairway handrail (see Section 15.3).
 - d. Plan to completely prime the entire house before starting the finish painting. Finish painting can begin as soon as priming is completed and primer has dried for a minimum of one hour.
 - e. All plastered walls and ceilings must be painted with one primer coat and then one finish coat. Ceilings and walls are all painted the same color.
2. Most floors should already be covered with paper left by the plasterers. This is to prevent paint from spilling on floors. Wherever floors are not covered by paper, use small sheets of poly (look for these in the bath tub) under each roller pan to protect the floor. Check that exterior doors are covered by poly. If not, cover them with any left-over poly. Again, check the bath tub for poly.
3. Prepare the needed number of small paint containers, roller pans and pan liners for the number of crew and place them on the floor near the paint supply.
4. Open windows, if weather permits, to provide fresh air.
5. Dust off window sills and clean edges around tub/shower of excess plaster before painting. Wipe clean with a damp rag.
6. Check all outlets and penetration areas on both walls and ceilings for excess plaster. Smooth out rough areas before painting.
7. Tape a poly cover over the inside of both exterior doors (if not already done) to protect them from paint splatters. Keep the door closed when painting around the door.

8. Tape a poly cover over the tub/shower unit before painting bathroom walls and ceiling. Completely cover the shower flange with tape/poly. Cut additional pieces to cover the top side of the tub if needed.
9. Verify that the window frame faces have plastic window edging strips around the frames or have been covered with 2" painter's tape. Tape any uncovered frames, if necessary.
10. Turn on lights, both cage lights (hanging from ceiling) and portable lights. Place portable lights in rooms as needed.
11. Thoroughly mix all paints and stains before using. Use the drill with paint mixer for primer and paint. Use a tapered shim for stain.
12. Attach the hose to a water supply. Place four empty/clean 5-gallon pails side-by-side in the basement, in the garage, or outside and fill each with water. Designate one pail for washing hands and wetting rags, two pails for sequentially washing brushes, and one for a final rinse of washed brushes.

15.2. PRIMING AND PAINTING

1. Prime and paint only plastered surfaces. Do NOT prime or paint garage or unfinished basement areas.
2. After pouring primer from a supply pail, use a brush to immediately wipe off the side of the pail to prevent pooling of paint on the floor. This will help keep shoes clean and prevent slipping.
3. Start priming by rolling and cutting in ceilings first. These can be done simultaneously by having each person start at opposite ends of a room. Walls can be done as soon as the ceiling is completed. Prime walls from the ceiling down.
4. Prime walls, ceilings and house scuttle box cover (if there is one) using rollers. Use brushes to cut in all corners and surfaces that cannot be reached with a roller. When cutting in wall and ceiling corners, cut about a 3" wide border on each side of the corner. Use a good amount of primer and feather out the edges to prevent heavy paint lines.
5. Refill rollers as soon as additional pressure is needed to squeeze primer from the roller. This is easier on the arm and shoulder muscles and avoids paint roller lap marks which can occur along roller edges when pushing the roller too hard against plastered surfaces. Check for drips and lap marks after each ceiling and wall is finished and roll out before they dry. Check doors (including hardware) and windows for drips and spatters; clean immediately with a damp rag.
6. Hold the primer 1" away from all edges of exterior doors. This will keep primer off the door. The 1" unpainted strip will be covered by the door trim.

7. When dipping brushes into primer, limit depth to 1"-2". This will help to prevent dripping down the handle and extend brush life by limiting the amount of paint drying at, or in, the ferrule (the metal piece that wraps around the bristles).
8. Check with the Construction Supervisor to determine whether the house scuttle box trim should be painted. If yes, prime the ¾" x 8' scuttle box trim. This trim should be located with the stair skirt boards, closet poles and handrail. Because the surface is stained, it may need several coats of primer and paint
9. Wait at least one hour after priming to apply the finish paint. Generally, once all priming has been completed, finish painting can begin immediately if the same sequence of rooms and areas is followed.
10. After priming, transfer as much leftover primer as possible back into the 5-gallon supply pail by scraping roller covers with the roller scrapers and brushing out residual primer from small containers and roller pan liners. Throw out roller pan liners and small paint pail liners. Replace roller pan liners and small paint pail liners before filling with finish paint. Clean and dry primer brushes as much as possible before finish painting. Roller covers can be re-used for painting provided primer has been scraped from the roller cover.
11. Finish coat the walls, ceilings, house scuttle box cover (if there is one) and scuttle box trim (if it is to be painted) using the same techniques and sequence as for priming.
12. When painting is completed, use a portable light to look for any areas where paint is too light, and for paint drips. Hold the light 1'-2' from the wall and move it around, checking all painted surfaces. Touch up areas as needed. This is most easily done by two people, one holding the light and the other doing the touch up.
13. If paint is completely dry, any tape around window frames and the tub/shower flange can be removed. Run a sharp knife along the juncture of the painted wall and tape to cut the bond of paint to the tape. Gently pull the tape away. Any tape not removed on paint day will be removed on finishing day.
14. Wipe spatters off doors, door handles, hinges, strike plates, window glass, and tub/shower areas with a damp rag.

15.3. STAINING

1. Stain stair skirtboards, closet poles (if available), and the stair handrail.
2. Set up three sawhorses in a room in which painting has been finished or, if weather permits, in the garage. Make sure to protect the garage floor with poly or cardboard. Cover the top of the sawhorses with rags or poly and place skirtboards, closet poles and hand rail on them.
3. Inspect surfaces and edges for damage or roughness. Sand if necessary. Report damage to the Construction Supervisor.

4. Stain one side and the edges of the skirtboards. Stain the side with the best appearance. Stain all sides of the stair handrail.
5. Apply stain evenly with a rag, wiping off excess with a dry rag.
6. Leave in place to dry.
7. Use mineral spirits for any clean up.

15.4. CLEAN-UP

1. Brush finish paint out of small paint pail liners and roller pan liners into the supply pail. Scrape residual paint from roller covers into the paint supply pail.
2. Remove and dispose of roller covers. Dispose of tray liners and any small pail liners with excessive residual paint build-up. Rinse roller frames with water and wipe clean before putting them away.
3. Clean and rinse brushes using the water filled pails and give to the Construction Supervisor for evaluation. Cleaned brushes can be re-used. Dispose of those that are damaged or deemed unable to be re-used. If painting cannot be completed in one day, wet brushes and rollers can be kept for several days when wrapped tightly in plastic wrap or sealed in foil
4. Open the top sash of all windows about 1". This will allow moisture to escape and helps paint dry. Start any fans.
5. If floors are covered with paper, remove all paper being careful not to transfer any spilled paint, dust or debris onto the house sub-floor or newly painted surfaces.

15.5. PREPARATION FOR NEXT BUILD DAY

1. Secure covers on pails containing primer/paint. Use a marking pen to note approximate volume (e.g., full, half full, etc.) on the covers. Remove lids from empty pails. Place all pails, including empty pails, in one of the large main floor rooms.
2. In areas that will have vinyl flooring, mark location of studs with painter's tape. Place a small strip of tape vertically on the wall (even if paint is not completely dry) making sure it extends no higher than two inches from the floor.
3. Leave two step stools in the basement.

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