

Painting How-To #6:

Make it Last: Caring for Painted Surfaces.



All Paints • All Surfaces • All Pro

Call Ken at 605.321.6824
For a Free Estimate Now.

How can I make my painted surfaces last longer?

How many homeowners do you think read the entire label on a paint can? If past emails I get are an accurate barometer, I would say less than 5 percent of the public truly reads and understands the instructions. Reading the label on the paint can is the first thing you should do.

Pay particular attention to the advice given about compatible primers and the amount of time you must wait before you apply a second coat.

When you read the label, my guess is you will see language that tells you to apply the paint to a clean, dry surface. Unfortunately many people do not follow this critical advice. It is important to understand that paint is simply glue with color added to it. If you want glue to stick well to an object, it really helps if the surface is totally clean and is dust-free.

Once all loose paint has been scraped off, look for cracks where water can enter the skin of your home. Caulk these cracks and wipe the water-based caulk with a damp sponge to produce a professional looking joint. Make sure the caulk tube says the caulk is paintable.

Priming new masonry surfaces or bare wood is very important. Even more important is covering the

primer as soon as possible with the finish paint. If the primer says it can be top-coated with the finish paint

in 24 hours or less, then do so immediately after the time has expired. The finish paint can actually bond both mechanically and chemically to the primer if you do not wait days and days to apply the finish paint. My advice is to only prime as much area as you can finish paint the following day.

If you are working with paint on an older home, be very cautious. Houses built on or before 1978 can be coated with paints that contain lead. It is estimated that there are tens of millions of homes that have lead paint on either their interior or exterior surfaces.

Scraping, sanding and removing the paint can create lead dust which is very toxic and poisonous. The Environmental Protection Agency has very helpful tips at their website to help you deal with this hazard.

Avoid painting in direct sunlight and on windy days if possible. Direct sunlight can cause rapid drying which creates a skin over the freshly-applied paint. As the remaining water in the paint dries, the paint develops bubbles. Wind causes paint to dry too quickly and can stop some paints from achieving the best bond to the surface being painted.

Painting How-To #6 Cont'd: Making it Last: Caring for Painted Surfaces.

How often should I expect to paint the outside of my home?

If you're like most homeowners, you're always looking for ways to increase, or at least, maintain your home value. Did you know... realtors say that house painting is the single best way to increase the value and selling price of your home!

Taking care of a house requires a lot of work. Painting your home is one of those tasks most people avoid thinking about, just like replacing a roof. How often should you paint the outside of your home? It depends on where you live, the climate and conditions, and the quality of paint you use.

In a hot wet climate and the intense summer sunlight and the winter wind and hail like in Sioux Falls, even with the best quality of paint, you should check for signs of wear after 6 years.

Good news, if the prep work is done RIGHT, and a high quality paint is used, the exterior paint job should last 7 years..

BEST ADVICE: Don't wait too long...