## Save Money When Selecting a Contractor.

## How can I save money when selecting a painting contractor?

People start exterior and interior home painting projects for many reasons - to beautify and extend lives of their houses, to improve curb appeal, or to raise value of a house in order to sell it faster.

But whatever the reason, the following home painting tips will help you save money on your next home improvement painting project.

This may sound counter-intuitive, but with regular maintenance painting you can keep the surfaces protected and avoid costly repairs.

A lot of homeowners wait too long before scheduling exterior home painting, thinking they are saving some money, but instead they end up with failing/ peeling paint, cracks, dryrot, mold/mildew and water damage - conditions that are very expensive to fix. It's like being penny wise and dollar dumb.

Besides, if you take into account that the biggest costs of any house painting job come from labor, you will realize that the longer you wait, the more you'll end up paying because of all the scraping, sanding, caulking, priming and repairs that your house will need.

It's much cheaper to keep your house and your budget under control by being proactive - a properly and regularly maintained house usually needs just one fresh coat of paint and minimum surface preparation - your savings will reach into thousands.

## Choose the best

"I am not rich enough to buy cheap things" - this saying holds true for so many things in life, but especially for house painting.

The primary purpose of quality paint is to protect your home from the elements, and its decorative value is just a nice bonus. So when you buy cheap paint, you are not saving any money, just the opposite - you are wasting it, because the thing you bought does not do what you bought it to do.

The same goes for choosing a painting contractor, low bidders cut corners on surface preparation, and without proper surface prep the paint will not hold well - you may have to pay someone else to redo the job. You can avoid paying more and paying twice if you choose a reputable house painting contractor who will do the job right the first time.

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You can take advantage of lower contractor rates if you schedule your exterior and interior home painting projects for "slow seasons ".

For example, winter in South Dakota is brutal, and is a great time for interior home painting, March and November are good for exterior painting jobs, while August and periods around all major holidays offer good saving opportunities for any home improvement painting project.

Many house painting companies lower their rates or run special promotions during these times, so if you are flexible and plan your projects in advance, you can often make a great deal - just ask. Schedule your painting needs with me during the winter months and I will "offer" you a $10 \%$ discount on your painting project to further save you money.

## Order wholesale

Some people spread their exterior and interior home painting projects throughout the year - they hire a house painter just for painting a room, then a couple months later they call him back to paint something else in the house and so on.

But if you group your exterior and interior home painting projects together to be done at the same time, you can usually get a "volume" discount from your house painting contractor - he will save on gas, on setting up and wrapping up and will pass those savings on to you.

And here's another way to get wholesale pricing: recommend your house painting contractor to a friend, neighbor or family member - if he gets the job from
your referral, you will receive a discount on your own home painting project.

## Do your part

Interior home painting contractors usually include in their bid things like moving furniture, removing pictures, blinds, and decorations from the walls and putting everything back.

You can get a price break if you take responsibility for those tasks and completely set up the stage so that the painters can focus on painting.

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