



DIY PREP GUIDE

Your Exterior Painting Project Pre-Paint Checklist

Everything to do before, during, and after your DIY exterior paint job



☐ Confirm HOA Approval & Notifications

If your neighborhood has an HOA, make sure your color choice and project are approved before you buy paint or get started.



☐ Choose Your Paint & Sheen

Pick an exterior-grade paint matched to your siding material. Satin or low-sheen finishes hide surface imperfections better than gloss.



☐ Gather Your Supplies

Brushes, rollers, a sprayer (optional), tape, drop cloths, and a ladder. See the East Dallas Painting DIY Exterior Painting Supplies Checklist for a full list.



☐ Protect Landscaping & Fixtures

Cover plants, walkways, light fixtures, and AC units with drop cloths or plastic sheeting before you start any prep work.



☐ Check the Weather & Plan Your Timing

Look for a stretch of dry days with temps 50–90°F and low wind – avoid painting in direct, high-heat sun or right before rain.



☐ Pressure Wash the Surface

Wash siding, trim, and soffits to remove dirt, mildew, and chalking paint. Let everything dry fully – usually 24–48 hours – before continuing.



☐ Scrape, Sand & Repair Surfaces

Remove peeling or flaking paint with a scraper, sand rough edges smooth, and replace any rotted wood or trim you find.



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Caulk Gaps & Joints

Seal joints around windows, doors, and trim with exterior-grade caulk to block moisture and give a cleaner finished look.



Prime Bare Wood & Patches

Bare wood, fresh repairs, and stains need a coat of exterior primer first for even color and better paint adhesion.



Tape & Mask Windows, Trim & Fixtures

Mask window panes, light fixtures, and anything you're not painting with exterior-grade painter's tape.



Cut In & Apply the First Coat

Brush the edges and detail work first, then roll or spray the larger surfaces, keeping a wet edge as you move along the wall.



Apply a Second Coat

Let the first coat dry fully per the label – exterior coats often need longer than interior ones – then recoat for full, even coverage.



Clean Your Tools & Workspace

Wash brushes, rollers, and sprayer parts right away, reseal cans tightly, and store leftover paint out of temperature extremes.



Final Walkthrough & Proper Disposal

Pull tape before the paint fully cures and check the exterior in daylight for missed spots. Let empty cans dry out before trash day and follow your city's disposal rules.

PREFER TO SKIP THE PREP AND CLEANUP WORK?

We've Got You Covered

East Dallas Painting offers free, no-obligation quotes for exterior projects.

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