



## DIY PREP GUIDE

# Your Interior Painting Project Pre-Paint Checklist

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



### ☐ Choose Your Paint & Sheen

Test a few swatches on the wall and view them in daylight and lamp light before buying full cans. Eggshell or satin suits most walls; semi-gloss holds up better on trim.



### ☐ Gather Your Supplies

Brushes, rollers and covers, trays, painter's tape, drop cloths, an extension pole, and a sturdy ladder. See the East Dallas Painting DIY Interior Painting Supplies Checklist for a full list.



### ☐ Clear & Protect the Room

Move furniture to the center of the room or out entirely, and take down wall art, curtains, and outlet covers. Cover floors and anything left behind.



### ☐ Repair Wall Surfaces

Fill nail holes, dents, and cracks with spackle. Let it dry completely, then sand smooth and wipe away the dust before doing anything else.



### ☐ Clean & Dust the Walls

Wipe down walls, trim, and ceilings to remove dust, grease, and cobwebs – paint won't adhere well over a dirty surface, no matter the brand.



### ☐ Tape Edges & Trim

Mask off trim, ceiling lines, outlets, switch plates, and door frames with painter's tape, pressing the edge down firmly to stop bleed-through.



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## Prime If Needed

Bare drywall, water stains, and big color changes (especially dark to light) need a coat of primer first for true color and even coverage.



## Set the Room & Cut In

Open windows or run a fan and aim for 50-85°F. Cut in edges and corners with a brush before rolling so you always keep a wet edge.



## Roll the First Coat

Roll the open wall areas in a slightly angled "W" pattern, working in small sections and always overlapping into the wet edge.



## Apply a Second Coat

Let the first coat dry fully per the label – usually 2-4 hours – then apply a second coat for even, opaque color and a longer-lasting finish.



## Clean Your Tools & Workspace

Wash brushes and rollers right away, or wrap them tightly in plastic for next-day reuse. Reseal leftover paint cans tightly so they stay usable.



## Remove Tape & Do a Final Walkthrough

Pull painter's tape at a 45° angle before the paint fully cures to avoid peeling. Walk the room in good light to catch any spots needing touch-up.



## Dispose of Materials the Right Way

Let empty cans dry out completely before trash day, and never pour leftover paint down a drain – check your city's guidelines for proper disposal.

PREFER TO SKIP THE PREP AND CLEANUP WORK?

## We've Got You Covered

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

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