INTRODUCTION

Repainting is one of the most popular do-it-yourself projects in New Zealand. Almost anyone can paint, but there a number of steps to follow to get a durable, quality finish. Preparation is the most important, but it can be slow going and it must be done well.

This guide takes you through the basic steps to achieve a quality finish on exterior timber, stucco, fibre-cement, concrete and roofing steel.

PLANNING & BUILDING CONSENT

A building consent is not required when painting, but local planning rules may place limitations on the colours that can be used - check with your local council.

DECIDING WHEN TO REPAINT

When repainting the hardest decision is when to repaint. New paint will last longer when the old paint is still sound - before it starts peeling or cracking.

PLANNING PAINTING WORK

Painting a whole house can take a number of weeks so plan ahead. A period of fine weather helps. Consider painting one side of the house each year and spread the effort.

COLOUR CHOICE

COLOUR CHOICE IS PERSONAL BUT:

- ☐ dark colours fade and chalk more than light, and reds and blacks are worse than blues and greens
- ☐ lighter colours last longer on timber (particularly on wider boards)
- ☐ darker colours can cause further drying and shrinkage in timber, accelerating cracking and coating failure
- ☐ lighter colours reduce the surface temperatures and thermal movement on painted steel
- ☐ dark colours can out-perform light colours on concrete or stucco
- ☐ applying a dark colour directly over a light one can cause a sound coating to fail
- ☐ not all colours readily cover the original colour - bright yellows, reds and oranges, have limited opacity and may require additional coats.

CHOOSING PAINT

EXTERIOR PAINTS ARE EITHER:

- ☐ water-borne which are more flexible and generally longer lasting
- ☐ oil or solvent-borne which are generally harder and give a smoother surface.

WHEN SELECTING PAINT:

- ☐ paint quality is normally related to retail price
- ☐ use all paint from one manufacturer
- ☐ gloss finishes are easier to keep clean
- ☐ gloss finishes show surface defects more than semi-gloss or matt finishes.

PAINTING SYSTEMS

FOR TIMBER

A primer to new or bare wood
B optional undercoat
C finish coat 1
D finish coat 2

FOR STUCCO, CONCRETE, FIBRE-CEMENT(1), CONCRETE BLOCK, BRICK

A sealer to bare material
B finish coat 1
C finish coat 2

FOR STEEL ROOFING/WALL CLADDING

A zinc-rich paint to prepared rusted areas (if any)
B primer (oil-based where the iron has rusted)
C finish coat 1
D finish coat 2

Note: Obtain specific advice when repainting asbestos cement building materials as specific safety precautions are required.

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TOOLS NEEDED

- ☐ Brushes
- ☐ Dust mask
- ☐ Hand scraper
- ☐ Hot air gun
- ☐ Ladder
- ☐ Roller & sleeves
- ☐ Power sander
- ☐ Putty knife
- ☐ Water blaster
- ☐ Roller tray
- ☐ Sanding block
- ☐ Stanley knife

MATERIALS NEEDED

- ☐ Sealer or primer
- ☐ Filler/putty
- ☐ Masking tape
- ☐ Sandpaper
- ☐ Finish coat
- ☐ Sugar soap
- ☐ Rags

DISCLAIMER

Please Note: Whilst the advice and recommendations contained in this brochure have been produced with proper care, they are offered only with the object of assisting those interested in home improvement projects and ITM does not accept responsibility for the advice, recommendations, etc, contained herein.

If you have any queries please contact your local ITM store for further advice.

Note: A Building Consent may be required.

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THE RIGHT WAY

TO PAINT AN EXTERIOR

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IDENTIFYING EXISTING PAINT TYPE

Before repainting identify the existing paint so the right removal and surface preparation methods are used and the new paint is compatible with the old.

Thoroughly clean a painted area with water then rub it with a clean rag soaked in methylated spirits. If there are significant traces of paint on the rag, the paint is probably water-borne.

Check old paints for lead by purchasing a lead paint test kit. Use a sharp blade to cut the existing paint at an angle to clearly expose all layers of paint. A drop of the solution placed on the exposed layers will turn black if lead is present. If lead is identified it is advisable to refer to the below web link for further information about how to correctly and safely remove the paint. (www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdf/leadpaint.pdf)

CLEANING

All surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned. A water blaster efficiently removes dirt and loose paint, but only use low pressure on timber - don't force the water into gaps or cracks.

Alternatively, scrub the surface with a soft bristled broom and wash down using a garden hose.

Remove all mould and mildew with sugar soap or a proprietary mould remover suitable for the material you plan to use it on. Rinse thoroughly to remove all traces of the cleaning material.

REPAIRS

Replace rotten or split timber, corroded flashings or cracked putty before starting preparation.

When replacing glazing putty always prime the rebates before re-puttying and leave the putty for 7 to 10 days to set before priming.

EXISTING PAINT REMOVAL

Remove all flaking paint remaining after cleaning using a hand scraper.

Check paint adhesion by making a number of criss-cross cuts (#) with a sharp blade (approximately 2 mm deep) then press adhesive tape over the cuts. If paint flakes come off with the tape, remove the paint.

Paint is difficult to remove totally from concrete, fibre-cement, stucco and steel. Remove all paint from timber when it is in poor condition or there have been six or seven repaints.

Paint removal options for lead free paints are:

TIMBER (solvent-borne paint):
burning off, heat gun, stripping solution, scraping, power or hand sanding

TIMBER (water-borne paint):
heat gun, stripping solution, light power or hand sanding, scraping, dissolving off with solvent (methylated spirits, xylene)

CONCRETE (solvent-borne/water-borne paint):
water blasting, scraping

FIBRE-CEMENT (solvent-borne paint):
low pressure water blasting, sanding, scraping

FIBRE-CEMENT (water-borne paint):
low pressure water blasting, scraping
Modern fibre-cements do not contain asbestos. If unsure seek advise from your nearest ITM store. Old fibrolite or cement sheets may contain asbestos. It must not be sanded or wire brushed as the abrasive action may release asbestos fibre into the air resulting in a potentially serious health risk. Loose or flakey paint may be removed by water blasting. Asbestos cement sheeting is not a health risk if it is re-painted to seal the surface against the release of asbestos fibre.

STUCCO (solvent-borne paint):
low pressure water blasting, sanding, scraping

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low pressure water blasting, scraping

METALS (solvent-borne paint):
water blasting, sanding, scraping

METALS (water-borne paint): water blasting, scraping

Note: Solvent-based paints are to be decanted into clean, dry metal containers only.

Burning off is best done by experienced operators. Home-handyman-type hot-air guns are okay for acrylic paint but, they can be ineffective for solvent-borne paints and a commercial grade gun is necessary. Windy conditions or thick paint also reduce their effectiveness.

Chemical stripping is fine on intricate or profiled woodwork or around windows but is not suitable for removing paint from large areas.

A stiff bristled brush may be effective on stucco, concrete block or concrete. Wire brushing should not be used.

WHEN USING CHEMICAL STRIPPERS:

- ☐ wear protective clothing, gloves & safety glasses
- ☐ liberally apply the stripping solution
- ☐ wait until paint softens
- ☐ scrape off the degraded paint
- ☐ wash down the surface as noted on the stripper can. Stripper residue can affect paint adhesion

SANDING

After removing all loose paint, hand or machine sand the surface including all sound paint with 120 grit paper. This removes the gloss from existing paint and smoothes the surface to aid adhesion of the new paint. Note: Using finer sand paper may make the surface too smooth and affect paint adhesion.

Sand rough edges of localised paint failure smooth and apply a primer or sealer to the bare patches.

PRIMING OR SEALING

Priming/sealing seals the surface and aids the adhesion of finish coats. Do it immediately after sanding (and dust removal) because bare timber, concrete or fibre-cement can absorb moisture and metal can rust if left uncoated.

Use a primer/sealer compatible with the existing paints - i.e. acrylic primer over existing acrylic paint.

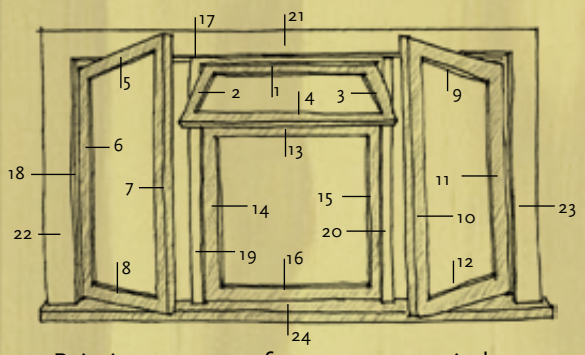
FILLING

After priming/sealing, fill all imperfections that will mar the finished surface with:

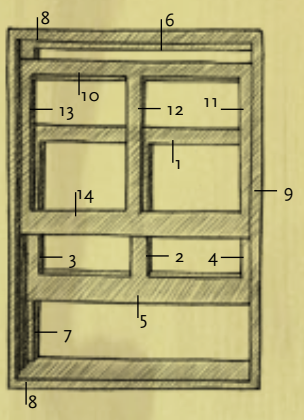
- ☐ timber - exterior grade timber filler
- ☐ concrete, concrete block, fibre-cement - cement-based filler
- ☐ metal - epoxy or car-body filler

After fillers have set, sand it smooth, remove all dust and prime or seal.

PAINTING ORDER



Painting sequence for a casement window



Painting sequence for a double hung window

PAINTING

PAINT ROOF SURFACES FIRST THEN WALLS IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER:

1. Roof eaves
2. Soffits
3. Walls from top to bottom working along then down and across
4. Doors and window

WHEN PAINTING:

- ☐ best to paint when the temperature is above 10°c and moisture levels are low
- ☐ don't paint immediately prior to, during or after dewfall
- ☐ avoid painting during the hot part of the day particularly when using acrylics
- ☐ avoid painting in direct sunlight
- ☐ thoroughly mix the paint
- ☐ don't apply paint to a cold surface soon to be heated by the sun
- ☐ use clean equipment and keep it clean
- ☐ lightly sand between coats for oil-based paints
- ☐ wipe down surfaces before painting
- ☐ ensure previous coats are dry

WHEN USING A ROLLER:

- ☐ use the correct roller (see next section)
- ☐ cut in difficult areas and edges with a brush first. Create a stipple effect with a brush where rolling is difficult
- ☐ don't overload it with paint
- ☐ use a firm pressure to apply the roller
- ☐ work methodically across the surface
- ☐ finish by rolling parallel to the wet edge or vertically for sheet claddings with a light pressure
- ☐ don't lift it off the surface while it is still spinning

ROLLER SELECTION:

- ☐ short-pile rollers hold small amounts of paint, give a slightly dimpled finish and are best on smooth surfaces
- ☐ medium or long-pile rollers hold more paint and are best for semi-rough and rough surfaces. The longer the pile the more noticeable the surface stippling effect on smooth surfaces
- ☐ foam plastic rollers for solvent-borne paints on smooth surfaces
- ☐ profiled rollers for producing textures or for use on corrugated roofing

WHEN BRUSHING:

- ☐ use the biggest brush that can be comfortably handled for big areas - use a larger brush with water-borne paints as they flow more easily than solvent-borne paints
- ☐ use small, easily handled brushes for cutting in
- ☐ decant into a smaller container enough paint for half an hour to an hours painting
- ☐ load the brush with paint, remove excess paint by running it across the container edge to reduce the risk of paint dripping from the brush
- ☐ use a firm pressure to apply the paint to the surface being painted
- ☐ brush the paint in two directions
- ☐ 'lay-off' the wetted area with light brush strokes (following grain direction for timber). Keeping a wet edge is important with water-borne paint because they dry quickly
- ☐ paint should be well brushed onto the surface but don't over-brush
- ☐ brush towards the last area painted (wet edge). Always brush acrylic paints into the still-wet edge
- ☐ at corners brush out from the corner to meet the new paint