

Painting & Caulking

TASKS 41, 53, 58

Purpose: Paint provides not only the finish color to the home, but also the weather protection to the exterior. Caulking seals joints and cracks to weather and creates a smooth appearance where materials are joined.

Tools: Paint brushes and rollers, extension handles, replacement roller covers, rags, razor blades, paint buckets, roller pans, drop-cloths, masking tape, step ladders, extension ladders, scaffolding and caulking guns, Spray bottles for soapy water; liquid soap.

Safety Issues: Some surfaces, especially the gables of the house, will require working from a ladder. Make sure it has secure footing and be careful while working on the ladder.

Materials: Latex primer and paint, caulking in tubes.

Inspection Criteria:

Prior to starting, make certain all surfaces are well fastened and solid. Surfaces are to be clean and dry.

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Sequence & Methods:

- 1 Using a **caulking** gun, seal all cracks around windows and doors and any other open cracks. Cut the tip of the tube to create the desired size bead of caulking. You can smooth the bead with soapy water and your finger.
- 2 If surfaces are dusty or dirty, wipe them with a rag before painting.
- 3 If the surface below the work area will be exposed (basement floors, carport slabs, porches, etc.), **cover them with a drop cloth** before starting to paint.
- 4 Normally surfaces are primed and then painted. However, with large volunteer teams we sometimes use the same paint for both coats so a volunteer won't accidentally apply the wrong coating. For estimating purposes, the prime coat usually covers 200-250 sf/gallon while the second coat (paint) covers about 300 sf/gallon. This obviously varies with the roughness of the surface painted.
- 5 When using colored paints, especially ones with the tint added in the store, you should mix all the cans of the same color by pouring back and forth in a spare bucket until you know all the buckets of paint are the same color. This avoids getting a room nearly painted and discovering the final can doesn't match what's on the wall.
- 6 Paint all interior surfaces before installing the door casing or other wood trim, as they are prefinished and you won't drip on them or have to protect them. Also, **if the ceiling will be textured, apply a coat of primer BEFORE the texture. The texture isn't dense enough to hide the sheetrock and tape.**
- 7 Paint or prime and texture the ceiling first, then paint the walls. If you paint the ceiling, use rollers on extension handles. Paint the wall-ceiling corner with a brush.
- 8 Paint the walls next, using a roller but **leave some space below the ceiling to paint with a brush so the roller doesn't mar the ceiling.**
- 9 Paint the siding (unless it's vinyl—no paint) by **first brushing up under each lap to fill the crack between sheets of siding.** Then roll on the large areas with a roller.
- 10 **When all the large areas are complete** (normally after primer and 1 coat, occasionally 2 for light colors), **paint the trim.**

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- 11 If you are painting windows (not pre-finished), paint the frame and, once the paint is dry, scrape it off with a razor blade (don't leave the paint on for many days). This is easier than masking the window.