

DIY Painting Guide

November 2005

The great outdoors just became the new indoors

These days, the great outdoors is fast becoming the new indoors!

Increasingly, an area for dining in the open air – al fresco – is no longer simply a barbecue area with a table and chairs somewhere in the garden but an integral part of our home's design.

Doors that completely open the rear of the house to the elements, flooring that flows through to decking outside, a built in barbecue or chiminea, planter boxes and screens to provide privacy and protect us from the sun are now being designed into our homes.

Timber as a design element

A key part of this move to the integrated al fresco lifestyle is the use of timber as a design element – in sun screens, wall panelling, pergolas, fencing and decorative features, even garage doors.

And the modern trend is to keep it natural...well, almost.

With the latest semi transparent, water based acrylic stains you can now have the best of both worlds.

The light pigmentation in the acrylic stain provides the golden natural colours and some protection from the sun's harmful UV rays while the transparency allows the beauty of the natural grain to be seen.

Sun protection

Sun protection is an issue for all timber.

Just as we slip, slop and slap on the sunscreen to protect our skin, outdoor timber is exposed to nature's elements and needs protection to keep its good looks and long term structural integrity.

There are a multitude of finishing coats to choose from, including clears, semi transparent stains and opaque finishes, all available in either oil based or water based products.

For an opaque, coloured coating that is long lasting, easy to use, dries quickly and requires minimum maintenance, you can't go past a top quality, 100% acrylic water based timber coating.

On the other hand, clear finishes and oils are easy to apply and allow the grain to show through, but will require multiple coats, and cleaning and recoating every one or two years as they are much less durable than opaque acrylic paints.

Correct preparation

Correct preparation of timber is vital if you are to achieve a good looking, long lasting job.

If you have timber that is weathered or old paintwork that is flaking, it must be sanded back



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF METRICON

to ensure good adhesion for new paint or stains.

Many outdoor living areas include timber decking.

Here's a tip. Before you install new decking, coat the hidden ends and underside face to seal and protect against moisture, and then ensure you paint or stain the

exposed surface within two weeks of installation.

If it is an existing deck, you will need to replace or repair any broken timber, and clean or power wash the surface to remove dirt, mildew or loose paint.

If you are refreshing old timber, you can initially restore that new

timber look by applying a deck brightening product to the bare wood before you apply a coating.

So if you are looking forward to enjoying dining al fresco this summer, now is the time to freshen up your existing timber features... or even consider giving your home a lift with a new look timber feature!

Take care of the environment

Top quality water based acrylic paints have been developed to provide outstanding performance as well as being more environmentally friendly.

Wherever possible, it pays to choose top quality water based acrylic paints because they are easier to apply, dry faster, emit less odour and their very low solvent levels make them friendlier to the environment.

2. Don't purchase more paint than you need

Try to estimate the amount of paint you will need so you don't end up with unwanted paint at the end of your project.

Should you have leftover paint, try to find another use for it.

For example, you could apply another coat, freshen up some old furniture, or give it to friends or relatives.

Finally, if all else fails and you need to dispose of it, contact the Environment Protection Authority or your local council for guidance as most of them have paint and chemical disposal schemes in place.

Never pour leftover paint down the drain!

3. Follow the safety directions on the paint can

Whichever paint you buy, always follow the safety directions on the can label.

Use protective equipment such as eye goggles and face masks, and take special precautions when handling or storing solvents, washing your hands after use and ensuring adequate ventilation.

Never expose solvent based paints to an open flame and, if you're cleaning tools with solvents try to reuse it as many times as possible.

4. Clean brushes and rollers carefully

A two-container system for cleaning painting equipment is a good way to clean up.

Partly fill two, approximately, 20 litre containers with water, or turps if using solvent based paints.

Wipe or squeeze excess paint onto an old rag or newspaper, which can be put out with normal rubbish once dry. Wash equipment well in the first container and then transfer to the second for a final clean up.

Cover both containers and allow solids to settle to the bottom overnight. Use the waste water on your garden or decant turps into another can for future clean-ups, and scrape the remaining paint solids onto old newspaper.

Check your local council or the EPA for details on recycling clean empty paint cans. ■



We all want to do the right thing by the environment so, next time you start a painting project, here are four tips for a 'greener' approach to painting.

1. Choose water based paints

Up until about 50 years ago virtually all house paint was solvent based. However, as the solvents evaporate they can create undesirable emissions.

Media Note

Text, photos and graphics from this special DIY Painting Guide, as well as other articles and images can be downloaded from our websites at:

www.paintquality.com.au
www.paintquality.co.nz

Just click on Press Room and follow the links to DIY Painting Guide.

Information

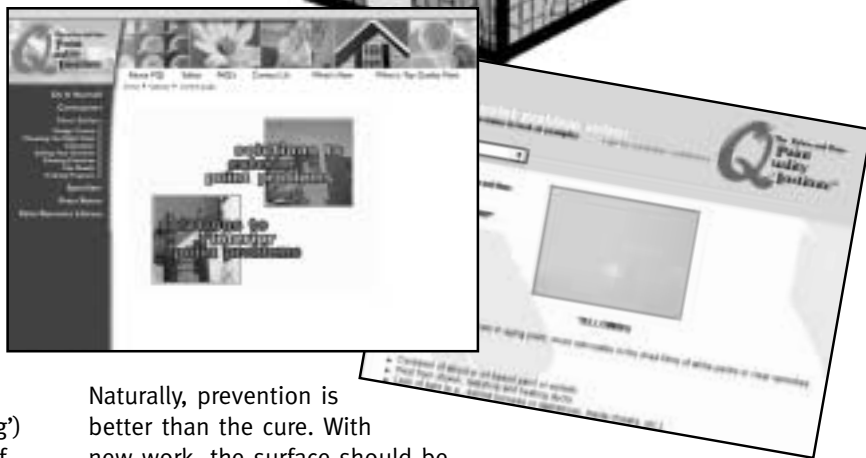
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Crikey! My house looks like a crocodile



Scales provide a great protective outer layer for a crocodile but they're not something you want appearing on the exterior of your home.

'Crocodiling' (or 'alligatoring') is the term used for a type of patterned cracking in the surface of paint film.

It can result from:

- Applying an extremely hard, rigid coating, such as an oil based enamel, over a more flexible coating, like a water based primer;
- Applying a top coat before the undercoat is dry; and
- The aging of oil based paints which expand and contract as temperatures fluctuate resulting in the loss of paint film elasticity.

Naturally, prevention is better than the cure. With new work, the surface should be primed with a high quality water based or oil based primer, then painted with a top quality exterior water based paint.

However, if crocodiling does start to appear, the solution is to remove all the old paint by scraping and sanding the surface. A heat gun will speed up the work if it's a large area, but take care near solvents and windows.

Then repaint with a high quality primer and top quality water based topcoat or a

premium, self priming acrylic top coat, to achieve the best result.

Check the recommendations on the can label for the number of coats required and the drying time.

Remember, if you encounter a challenge like this and don't have the answers, a visit to the PQI website, www.paintquality.com.au, will provide you with solutions to most common painting problems. ■

Four steps to exterior painting success

Painting the exterior of your home is truly rewarding.

You'll not only gain satisfaction from enhancing its looks and subsequently adding value to your home, but paint will help protect the exterior from the damaging effects of weather.

By following these four basic steps you'll be assured of fresh looking and long lasting results.

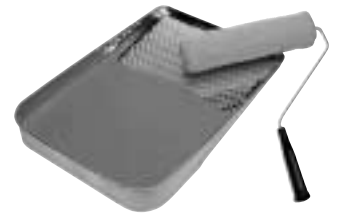
1 Clean and sand the surface

Peeling paint, dirt, grease, cracks, knots, rusty nail heads, bare areas and mildew are not the right foundation for your painting project. Clean and sand the surface to ensure it is smooth, clean and dry. It will be easier to apply the paint and it will last longer.



2 Chose good quality rollers and brushes

Buy the best quality rollers and brushes you can afford, look after them well and they will deliver quality results now and into the future.



3 Paint in the right conditions

If possible avoid painting in very windy or damp conditions. Try to arrange your job so that you're painting on the shady side of the house. Ideally the temperature should be between 15°-30°C. The conditions can affect not only the ease of painting, but also the strength and adhesion of the paint film.



4 Choose top quality acrylic paint

Always choose top quality, water based, 100% acrylic exterior paint. It adheres well, has better colour retention and lasts longer than ordinary paint. ■



The right colours can ADD value to your home

Manufacturers of quality paints offer colour ranges that suit both contemporary and traditional house styles. You can also refer to books and magazines for inspiration as well as your local environment.

Check with your local council or strata management – colour restrictions may apply due to regulations governing local heritage or the strata title covering your property.

Most homes use at least three different shades on the exterior – one overall colour for the walls and one or two contrasting colours for trimwork such as window frames, gutters and railings.

In terms of colour choices, it may pay to choose colours that complement rather than compete with neighbouring houses and the environment.

Apart from maintaining harmonious relations with your neighbours, your home will probably look better and be more valuable because of its wider appeal.

Many quality paint manufacturers make it easier by offering swatch cards showing colour combinations that work well on the walls, feature walls and trims of different types of houses.

Some offer fee based consultancy services where a colour expert will visit your home and prepare a personalised colour palette. You can also use computer-based visualisers at many local paint stores or on websites.

Choosing colour can be challenging. What looks so good on a colour card can look quite different once it is painted on a different surface, in direct sunlight, and set among neighbouring homes and the natural environment!

Some shades fade more than others, so remember to check that your selections are rated as exterior durable by the manufacturer.

To check how your colour scheme will look, quality paint manufacturers offer low cost samplers. Paint the colours on a small section of the gutter and

walls, leaving them for a few days to see how they are affected by different lighting conditions.

You might get it right first time or be surprised to find that a different shade to one of the colours you have chosen works better when it is actually on the wall.

When you're ready to go ahead, choose top quality 100 percent acrylic paints. Your new paint job will not only look better, it will also last longer, saving you time, money and effort. ■

According to real estate experts, repainting your home can add up to 20% to its value.

But even a beautiful, fresh coat of paint won't attract buyers if the colour scheme doesn't suit the home's style, or only appeals to a narrow range of buyers.

Choosing a new colour scheme for your home's exterior can be an interesting challenge but there are ways to make colour choice easier.

It's wise to begin by selecting top quality, 100 percent acrylic paints because they are offered in

a wider selection of colours than ordinary paint ranges.

Because painting the exterior of your home usually involves a significant investment in time and money, you probably won't want to change it for some time.

So it is wise to select colours that will maintain their appeal... taking into account long term trends.

The colour scheme you choose can be influenced by a number of factors such as the era and style of your home, your neighbours' colour schemes, the local environment and, most importantly, your personal taste.

