How to paint
Exterior

- Choosing the right paint, gloss and primer
- Estimating the correct amount of paint
- Using the right tools and supplies
- Prepping and painting
- Cleaning up and caring for your walls

Dunn-Edwards PAINTS®

THE #1 CHOICE OF PAINTING PROFESSIONALS®

How to paint your home's exterior

Nothing in the world breathes life into your home like a fresh coat of Dunn-Edwards® paint.

Use this step-by-step brochure and our ultra-premium Dunn-Edwards paints and primers to achieve beautiful, long-lasting, professional-quality results.

STEP 1: Choosing the right paint

A home's exterior can make or break that all-important first impression, so it's vital to choose the highest-quality paint possible. To truly transform a home, and make a good impression last, select an ultra-premium paint, which provides a smoother, more uniform appearance, as well as better durability than economy paint. By using ultra-premium paint, your project will likely require fewer coats to give your home the protection it deserves. Also, you won't have to repaint as frequently.

Consider using **EVERSHIELD®** ultra-premium exterior latex paints for superior durability, water repellency, mildew resistance and protection against UV (Ultra Violet) color fade.

Selecting the right gloss

The gloss level you choose for your paint project can have a significant impact on both appearance and maintenance. To determine the right sheen for your exterior project, consider these factors:

- Flat and velvet paints are best for concealing surface imperfections and are ideal for large areas, such as exterior wood, masonry or metal wall surfaces. We recommend **EVERSHIELD Exterior Flat** paint or **EVERSHIELD Exterior Velvet** paint.
- Eggshell and low sheen paints can be used in larger areas or on window frames and doors where a slightly higher sheen is desired. We suggest **EVERSHIELD Exterior Eggshell** and **EVERSHIELD Exterior Low Sheen** paints.
- Semi-gloss and gloss paints are best for highlighting details, such as window frames and doors, and are easy to clean. Consider using **EVERSHIELD Exterior Semi-Gloss** and **EVERSHIELD Exterior Gloss** paints.

To view examples of the many glosses available, please request a gloss guide from a sales associate.

GLOSS RECOMMENDATIONS

	Flat	Velvet	Eggshell	Low Sheen	Semi-Gloss	Gloss	High Gloss
Main Body							
Stucco, Masonry & Brick Walls	■	■	■				
Wood Siding	■	■	■				
Aluminum & Vinyl Siding	■	■	■				
Accents, Trim & Accessories							
Doors & Windows			■	■	■	■	■
Soffit, Fascia & Eaves	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Wood Fences	■	■					
Shutters			■	■	■	■	■
Garage Doors & Gutters	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Metal Gates			■	■	■	■	■

These are commonly used gloss levels for surfaces listed above. Gloss may be affected by texture, porosity of the surface and atmospheric conditions. Please contact a Dunn-Edwards® representative or your local store for specific product availability.

STEP 2: Choosing the right primer

Priming before painting ensures superior adhesion of the paint to the surface, helps cover darker colored paints and stains, and creates a smoother, more even finish.

There are many different primers, each suited for a particular surface, such as drywall, metal or concrete, or to address a particular problem, such as to cover stains or to prevent tannin bleeding. Dunn-Edwards offers the following premium exterior primers for each surface type:

Wood

EZ-PRIME® Premium is an acrylic primer that provides excellent enamel holdout and tannin stain resistance on woods such as redwood and cedar, which are subject to stain bleeding.

Block Fillers

Smooth BLOCFIL™ Premium is a heavy-bodied acrylic latex primer/filler that fills and bridges voids and cracks in porous cinder block and concrete block.

Multi-Surface

ULTRA-GRIP® Premium is an acrylic multi-purpose primer that provides superior adhesion, outstanding stain-blocking, excellent enamel holdout and great hide.

Masonry

EFF-STOP® Premium is an epoxy-fortified acrylic latex primer/sealer that provides very good resistance to efflorescence and alkali.

SUPER-LOC® Premium* is an interior and exterior masonry/bonding primer. It provides excellent adhesion to difficult-to-paint surfaces like tile, porcelain, ferrous metal (interior only), most plastics, formica, fiberglass, glass, aged alkyds, hardboard, wallboard, cabinets chalky surfaces (mild to moderate), PVC piping, fiber cement.

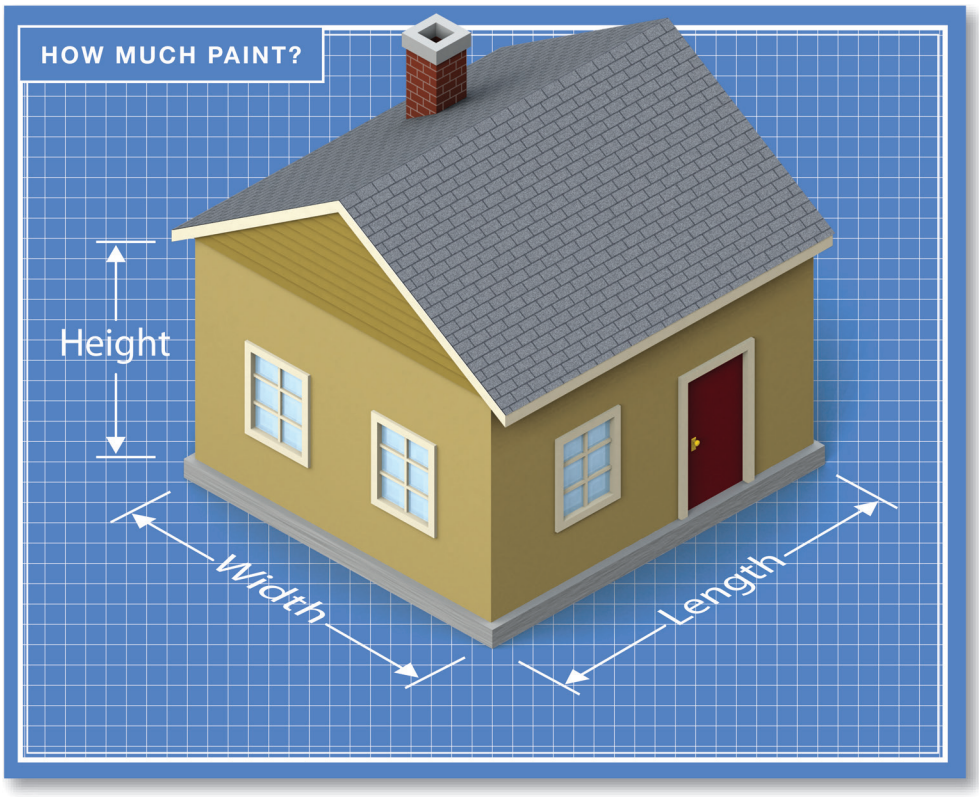
*subject to availability

Metal

ULTRASHIELD® Galvanized Metal Primer is single component, interior and exterior non-ferrous and ferrous metal primer. It provides excellent adhesion to properly prepared and etched galvanized metal and other non-ferrous metals: aluminum, brass, and copper.

BLOC-RUST® Premium is a white alkyd primer that provides excellent corrosion resistance on ferrous metals. (Also available in Red Oxide.)

STEP 3: Estimating the correct amount of paint



You can get a fairly accurate idea of how much paint you'll need for your project using these simple calculations.

First, measure the distance around your home.

Length: _____ x 2 + Width: _____ x 2 = Total Perimeter: _____

Next, multiply by height* to get square footage (sq. ft.).

Total Perimeter: _____ x Height: _____ = Home sq. ft.: _____

Subtract the area for doors (about 21 sq. ft. each) and windows (about 15 sq. ft. each).

Home sq. ft.: _____ – Doors & Windows: _____ = Total sq. ft.: _____

To determine the number of gallons for one coat coverage, divide total square feet by 400 square feet (approximate coverage for one gallon). Consider buying enough for two finish coats for the truest color and best coverage.

Total sq. ft.: _____ ÷ 400 = Gallons needed for one coat: _____

*Note: if you are painting a home with gables (a triangular area just below the roof), measure the whole structure from the base to the roof to obtain the height. This will provide some extra material to ensure you have enough paint on hand for the project.

STEP 4: Buying the right tools

We've created this simple checklist of the tools you should have for your exterior project:

- ☐ **Dust mask** to protect your lungs from fine particles
- ☐ **Goggles** to protect your eyes
- ☐ **Sandpaper and sanding block** to rough up shiny areas and smooth any rough spots
- ☐ **Wire brush or paint scraper** to remove loose paint
- ☐ **Flexible patching and putty knife** to fill small holes and cracks in wood and smooth concrete
- ☐ **Caulk and caulking gun** to replace missing or damaged caulk around doors and windows
- ☐ **Stucco patch and rubber float** to repair small holes in stucco
- ☐ **Masking tape and paper** to protect glass and fixtures
- ☐ **Drop cloths** to cover shrubs, driveways, walks and other areas
- ☐ **Wall brush** for "cutting in" around corners, windows and doors
- ☐ **Sash brush** for painting trim
- ☐ **Roller cover and frame** for painting all of the large, flat surfaces outside your home
- ☐ **Bucket** to mix your paint
- ☐ **Extension pole** to paint those hard-to-reach areas and finish your job faster
- ☐ **Wiping cloths** to clean up any spills

STEP 5: Preparing to paint

Weather and the elements are unkind to home exteriors and, over time, can severely damage paint; therefore, proper surface preparation is essential to achieve the best results. This begins by identifying and addressing the source of any problems before painting and using a primer if surfaces are unpainted or the original paint is in poor condition.

- Cut back shrubs and plants so they are easier to cover, but do not leave plants covered too long.
- Cover all objects and surfaces not being painted with plastic and make sure to move any cars away from painting area.
- Clean gutters and downspouts.
- Wash the area beneath the roof eaves to remove any dirt or surface contaminants. Wear goggles and protective clothing. Rinse area thoroughly with clean water.
- Remove surface dust and dirt using a cloth or soft brush and soapy water. Remove all stains, such as chalking and mildew.
- Repair all voids, cracks and holes.
- Sand all surfaces to smooth them out and use a wire brush or paint scraper to remove loose paint.
- Caulk all surface joints, cracks and seams. Make sure the caulking is thoroughly dry before painting. When working with bare surfaces, prime before applying caulk.
- Fill any cracks or large holes with a flexible patching material. Allow the patching material to dry completely before applying primer.
- Prime any areas that have not been previously painted or any exposed areas where paint has worn thin, or is peeled or blistered. Allow all areas to dry thoroughly – one or two days may be necessary, depending on the primer used.
- Prime gutters and downspouts. If gutters and downspouts have been painted previously, remove any rust and peeling paint using a scraper or wire brush. Sand all edges and wash the area with a garden hose or power washer. New aluminum gutters and downspouts that are factory-finished should remain in good condition for several years. New unpainted galvanized gutters and downspouts are coated with an oil that must be removed prior to painting.

  To remove the oil, use a moistened rag with a solvent or a water-soluble degreasing cleaner and thoroughly wipe all surfaces.

You are now ready to paint! Apply the appropriate paint for your situation, as recommended in this brochure.

STEP 6: Painting

When painting a house, it's best to follow a time-tested plan.

First, remove shutters and screens where possible. Start with the walls, then the trim. Follow up with the railings, porches, steps, foundation and shutters.

Start on the shaded side and never work in direct sunlight. If you are using oil-based products, check that all dew has evaporated. As you begin each section, arrange your drop cloths to shield plants and other areas. Cover shrubs crowding the house, and pull them away from the house using staked ropes. See Illustration A.

Illustration A

At each stage of painting, start at the top and work your way down. Paint along natural lines, using horizontal brush strokes for horizontal siding and vertical strokes for vertical siding. See Illustration C.

Illustration C

Rollers can be used after you've painted edges with a brush. Roll in light, even strokes in several directions. Roll slowly enough to avoid spattering, going as close to the edges as possible. See Illustration D.

Illustration D

Box your paint to avoid slight color differences. Always try to find a natural break, such as the corner of a wall. If you see you're running low on paint, open your next gallon and mix them together. See Illustration E.

Illustration E

Fill the brush by dipping it one third of the length of the bristles. Tap it gently against the side of the can, but don't wipe the brush against the lip. The bristles should flex slightly as you paint (don't press hard). Each dip of the brush should contain enough paint to cover one foot of 8-inch siding. Use the brush to smooth the paint to an even finish. See Illustration B.

Illustration B

STEP 7: Cleaning up and properly disposing of your paint

Water-based paints make cleaning up fast and easy. Clean any spills with a damp cloth before they dry. Clean brushes, rollers and other tools with soap and water.

Please think about our environment

- Try to buy only the amount of paint you'll need for your project.
- Save small amounts of leftover paint for future touch-ups. To keep the paint fresh for future use, put a layer of plastic wrap over the mouth of the can before replacing the lid securely.
- Cans with completely dried paint residue may be disposed of in ordinary household trash. Leave the lid off the container so the collector can see that the paint has dried.
- NEVER POUR LEFTOVER PAINT DOWN A SINK OR INTO A STORM DRAIN .

STEP 8: Caring for your newly painted exterior

- Periodically check the condition of exterior paint to resolve any paint problems early.
- Cracking, peeling or blistering should be repaired quickly to reduce future repainting costs.
- Dirt accumulation can often be removed by rinsing with a garden hose.

WARNING STATEMENT

CAUTION: Scraping or sanding surfaces of older buildings (especially pre-1978) may release dust containing lead or asbestos. EXPOSURE TO LEAD OR ASBESTOS CAN BE VERY HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment during surface preparation and finish clean-up of any residue by water-washing all surfaces. For more information, see Dunn-Edwards' brochure on "Surface Preparation Safety" or call EPA's National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or visit www.epa.gov/lead or www.epa.gov/asbestos, or contact your state or local Health Department.

Please note that these suggestions are provided as a service to you. We are unable to guarantee or be responsible for the results obtained by these procedures.

If you have additional questions, please ask any of our expert sales associates.

For more information, additional how-to guides may be found in-store and online at dunnedwards.com.

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