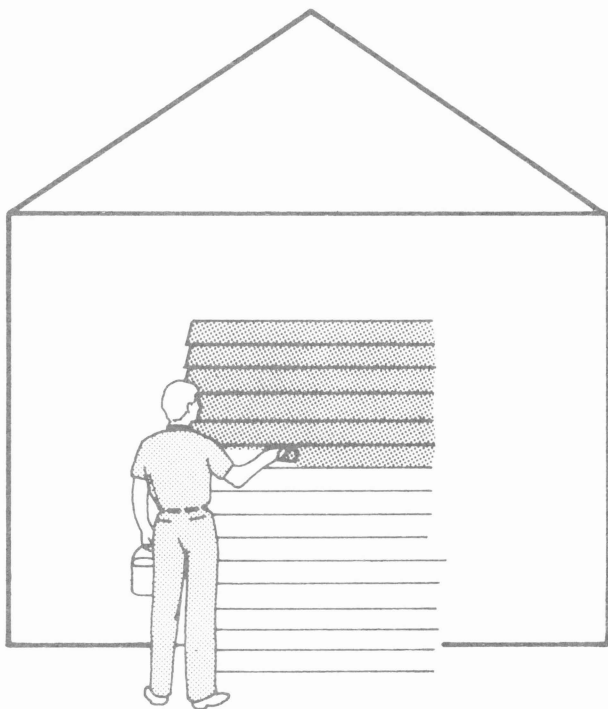


YOU CAN DO IT!

Exterior Painting PAINTING YOUR HOUSE



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Extension Housing and
Home Furnishings Specialists
The Texas A&M University System

Repaint the exterior of a house every 4 to 5 years, depending on the quality of paint. If you let it go too long, the old paint will be a poor base. Success of an exterior paint job depends about 80 percent on proper surface preparation and about 20 percent on proper application. Therefore, prepare the surface carefully for a satisfactory paint job.



ORGANIZE YOUR WORK

Before Painting

- Spread drop cloths
- Set up ladders and planks
- Get wipe-dry rags, brushes, etc.
- Mix paint thoroughly

Where to Start Working

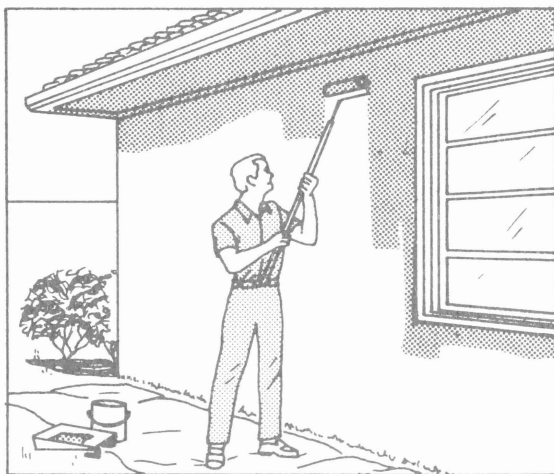
- Overhangs, peaks and gables
- Walls
- Gutters and downspouts
- Windows
- Doors
- Metal railings, windows and ornamental iron
- Porches, steps and patios
- Shutters, screens, storm windows and doors (remove and paint separately)
- Cleanup



CORRECT BRUSH USE

Dip half the length of the bristles into the paint. Tap the brush gently against the side of the can, but do not wipe it across the lip.

Hold the brush comfortably near the handle base, applying light pressure with your fingertips. Bristles should flex slightly toward the tip as you begin the stroke, but do not bear down on the brush.



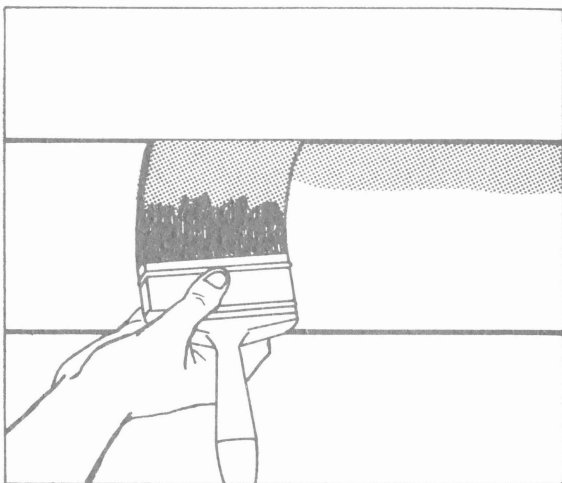
PROPER ROLLER USE

A roller speeds application of paint on flat surfaces such as masonry and floors. Cut an edge with a brush.

Roll paint on over the edge strip. Roll as near the edge as possible since the roller texture is different from the brush mark.

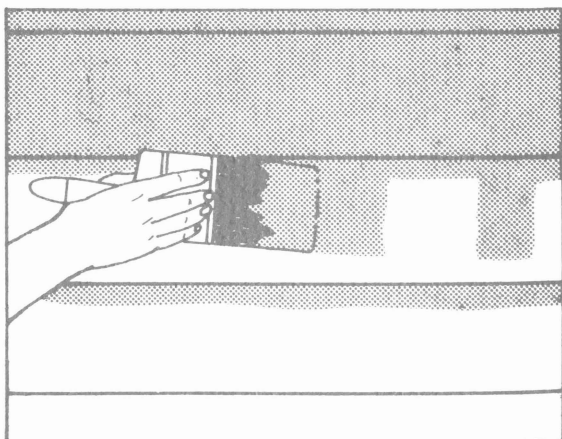
Roll paint on in light, even strokes in different directions. If paint is rolled on too fast, it will spatter.

Overhangs, Peaks and Gables



Begin painting on upper areas, such as peaks, gables and eaves. With siding, paint the underside first.

Walls

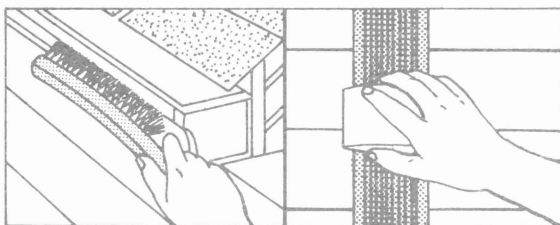


Unload the brush in spots, across the siding or vertical surface, and spread the paint with smooth, even strokes.

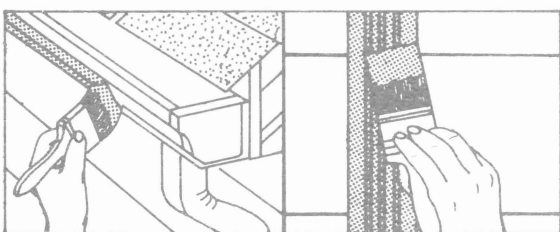
Paint a strip as wide as you can reach safely and comfortably from your ladder or plank. It's easier to move the ladder than to mend a broken bone.

Finish a complete side, or at least paint to a door or window, before stopping for the day. But more importantly, don't start a new can of paint in the middle of a board or large wall area. If the remaining paint in a can will not finish an area, mix some of the new paint with the partially filled can before starting the area. This helps blend the color.

Gutters and Downspouts

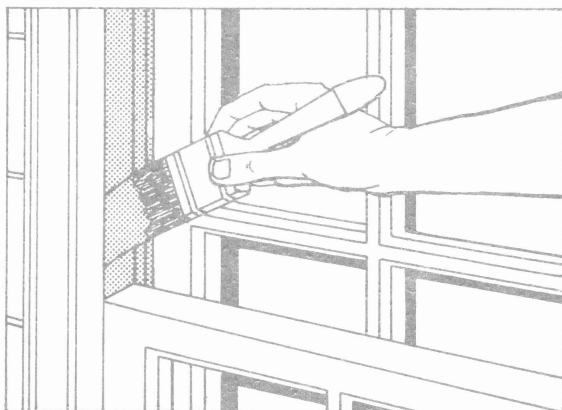


Remove any loose scale or paint with a wire brush or sandpaper and apply a coat of metal primer and a coat of house paint to gutters and downspouts. If the metal is new and unpainted, wipe it with a cloth soaked in mineral spirits to remove process oils.

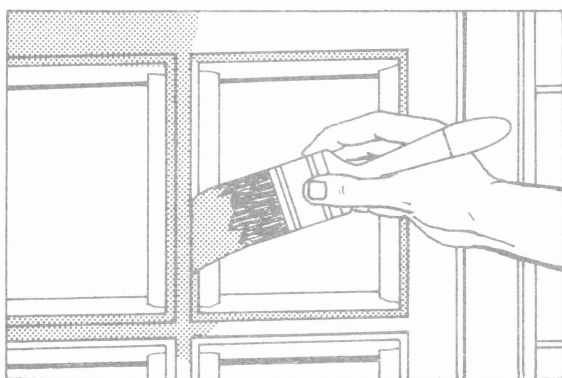


Windows

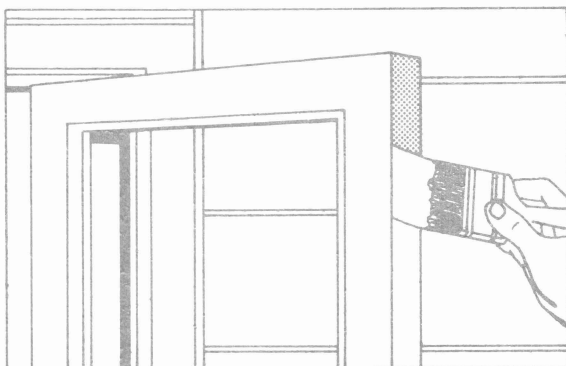
After sanding and dusting windows, lower the outside (upper) sash and raise the inside (lower) sash. Paint the exposed, upper checkrails with an angular sash brush that is at least 1½ inches wide.



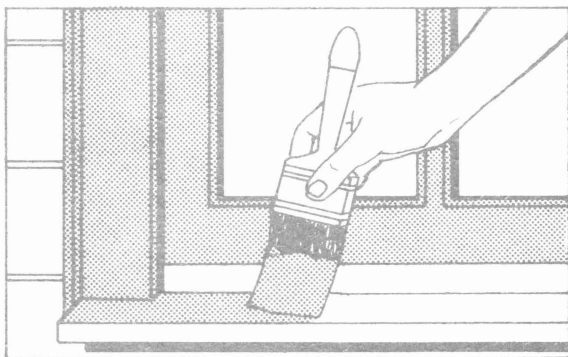
The next step is painting the crossbars and frames. Unless you have an unusually steady hand, you'll want to put masking tape around the panes to assure a neat painting job. Do the areas you can reach with the windows as you placed them when you began painting.



When the checkrails have dried, return the windows to their original positions and paint the lower checkrails and the remaining crossbar and frame areas.



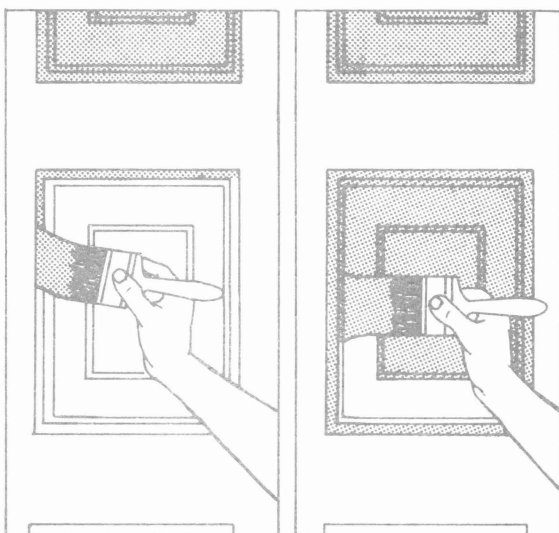
To paint casement windows, open them and paint the top, side and bottom edges first. Finish with the rails, frames, casings and sills.



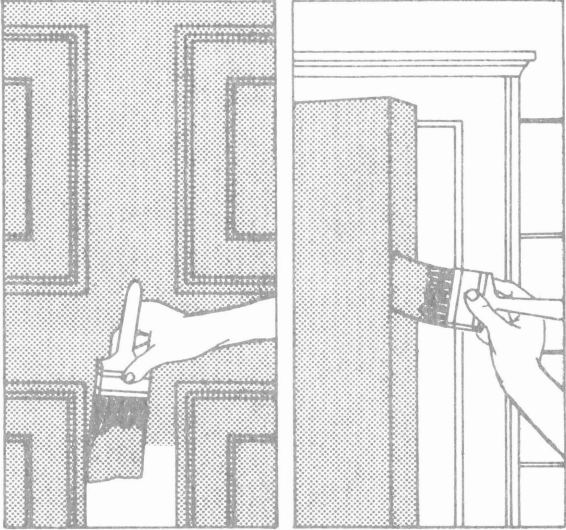
Finish your windows by painting the casings and sills, including the underside of the sills. Leave the windows slightly open at top and bottom to keep them free; open and close them several times a day until the paint is thoroughly dry.

Doors

After sanding and dusting doors, start painting the top panels. Paint the molding edges first. Then paint the remaining panel area by brushing across, then up and down.

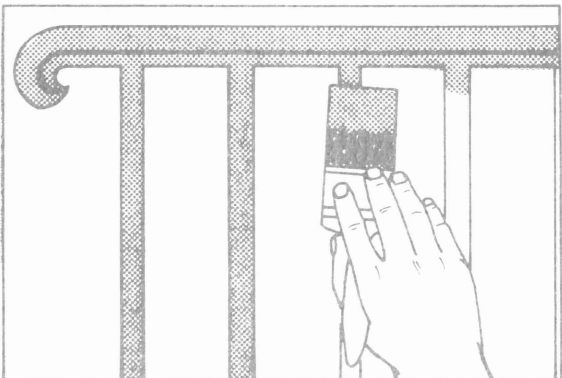


After covering all the panels, paint the remaining area and finish with the door edges. If the door swings out, paint the lockside edge with exterior paint. If it swings in, paint the hinged edge with exterior paint. Paint flush doors the same way you would a wall or flat surface, painting the edges first and then filling in the large area. Complete the job by painting the door frame and jambs.



Metal Railings, Windows and Ornamental Iron

Scrape or wire-brush away all loose material from metal railings, windows and ornamental iron, remove oil or grease with solvent, sand smooth or shiny surfaces to

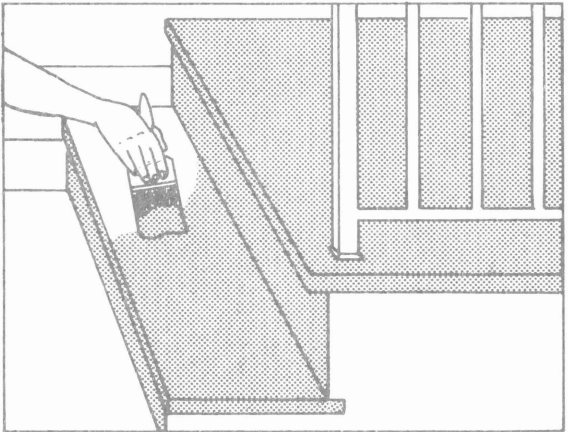


permit adhesion of the new paint and dust all areas to be painted.

Prime with rust-control primer, then top-coat with exterior paint. Paint interior and underside surfaces first, then finish with the outer and top surfaces.

Porches, Steps and Patios

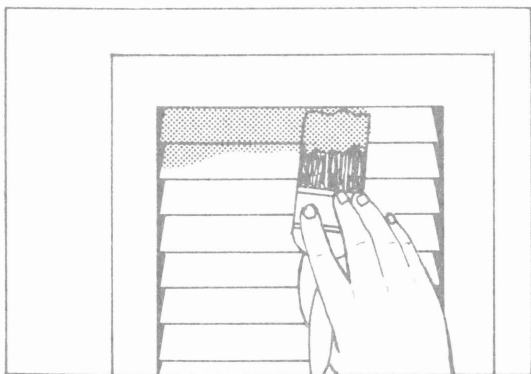
Leave porches, steps and patios until last. Start at the back or a porch or patio, farthest from the steps or entrance. Paint the edges first, then work toward the center and front.



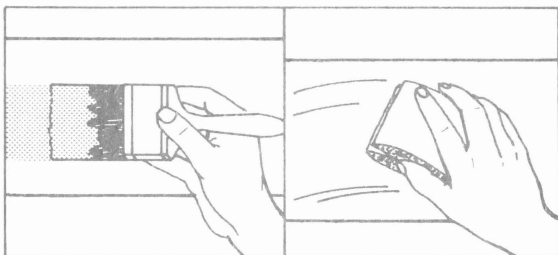
On steps, paint the underside of the step extension first, then do the back panel. Finish with the horizontal surface.

Shutters, Storm Windows and Screens

Shutters, storm windows and screens are painted most easily if they are first removed from the house. Then either lay them flat on supports or stack them side by side in a protected area. Paint one side and allow it to dry, then paint the reverse side. Be sure to paint the front, sides and backs of shutters. This greatly reduces chances of blistering and peeling.



Use an enamel paint thinned approximately 24 percent with appropriate paint thinner. Do not apply the paint with a brush; use a special tool. This tool, which is available from any paint dealer, is a piece of carpet with a handle on it. This tool prevents paint from clogging the screen. Paint the trim after the screen has dried.

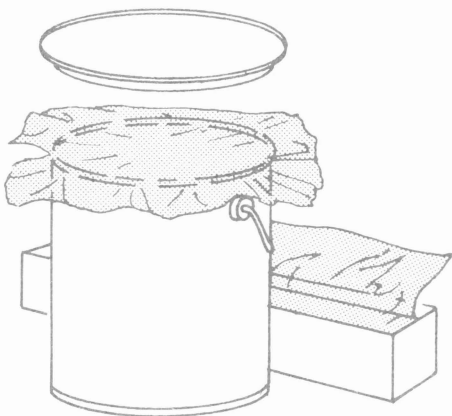


Although aluminum siding is usually shop finished, eventually it weathers and erodes to the point where repainting is required. Remove all oil, dirt, dust and other contaminants with soapy water or a stiff brush. Remove all loose paint with a wire brush, sand and spot-prime with metal primer. After drying, sand the surface to remove any rough edges. Follow with a top coat of house paint.

Cleanup

To keep paint tools and accessories in good condition and ready to use again requires only a little extra attention at the end of the day or job.

Equipment used in oil-base paints can be cleaned with turpentine followed by soap and water. Clean equipment used in water-base paints with soap and warm water.



If you have some paint left over, keep it for touchup work later. Air trapped inside the can when the paint is covered causes a skin to form, but you can easily remove this film when you are ready to paint again. To provide the best seal and minimize skinning, place a sheet of thin plastic wrap or other light plastic under the can lid before replacing it. Be sure the lid is closed very tightly.

If there is a quart or less of paint left, transfer it into a small container which can be filled completely.

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