

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN SHOULD I REPAINT?

Paint is more than just a pretty face. It also performs the important job of protecting the structure beneath it. If maintenance is not kept up-to-date, the painter could face peeling, blistering and cracking paint, maybe even rust and mould. At the very first sign of any paint breakdown, it could already be past time to call an expert. It is strongly recommended to repaint before problems are visible and certainly within the lifetime cycles estimated by the manufacturer.

I'M GETTING A FEW QUOTES FOR HAVING MY HOUSE PAINTED. CAN YOU TELL ME WHY THE PRICES VARY SO MUCH FOR THE SAME JOB?

Not all painters do the same type of job. Remember "the cheapest price and the best price are seldom one and the same".

Note the following points:

- Assuming all of your quotes are from reputable painters who are insured and members of the MPA, the major difference in prices are often directly related to the amount of surface preparation your painter will perform before the paint is applied. Surface preparation, when undertaken correctly is very detailed and time-consuming work which can take as much as 60% of the time required for the entire job.
- Not all painters provide the necessary insurances such as public liability cover (this should be at least \$10m) to protect you should an incident occur and workcover to protect themselves and their staff.
- Reputable painters use only premium products, some painters use cheap products that won't be as long-lasting or thin them down to make them go further.

WHICH PAINT SHOULD BE USED ON MY HOUSE?

It depends on the situation but the old adage: "You get what you pay for" applies to paint just as it does to other things in life. For the best performance use the best paint.

The simple rules are as follows:

Interior

- Ceilings – flat acrylic to hide blemishes, not washable.
- Walls – low-sheen acrylic as it is washable.
- Woodwork – satin or gloss oil-based or water-based enamel paint.

Exterior

- Gutters, fascias, eaves, weatherboards, rendered bricks, windows, doors, architraves and timber/render fences – low-sheen or gloss acrylic on all surfaces. Where windows that are in good condition are already painted in oil-based enamel we tend to re-coat in the same product.
- Steel surfaces such as lacework, wrought iron, metal banisters and metal finials – paint in oil-based enamel as it is tougher and holds rust back more effectively.

Note: for a long-term finish use only exterior acrylic paints with at least a 10-year manufacturer's warranty.