

MITREPLAN PROJECT PLANNER

Paint the outside of your home



- An easy-to-follow guide to achieving a perfect result.
- Outlines all the tools you will need for the job.
- Includes a materials checklist.

PLEASE NOTE:

Before starting this project or buying any materials, it is worth your time to read all steps thoroughly first to be sure you understand what is required.

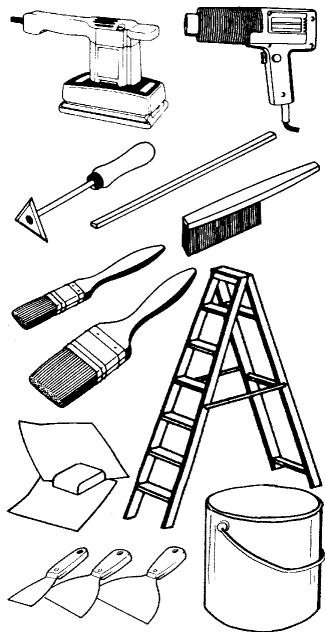
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MIGHTY HELPFUL™ MITRE 10

MIGHTY TOOLS FOR YOUR MITREPLAN



Our experienced Mitre 10 staff will be pleased to assist you with all the materials and advice that you will need, to make your next painting project a complete success.

Verbal quotes are indicative only. Written quotes on materials are available upon request from your Mitre 10 store.

✓ MIGHTY HELPFUL CHECKLIST

	ORDER
PREPARATION	
Masking tape	
Drop cloth	
Paint scraper	
Heat gun	
Wire brush	
Sugar soap	
Paint stripper	
Sandpaper – fine, medium and coarse	
Sanding block	
Orbital Sander or angle grinder	
Coloured caulk	
Gap filler	
Putty and filling knives	
Silicone	
Disposable overalls	
Goggles	
Gloves	
Dust mask	
APPLICATION	
Selected paint	
Paint pot	
Paint stirrer	
Paint brush	
Edging tool	
Paint pad	
Roller frame & cover	
Spray gun	
Roller tray	
Roller extension handle	
Ladder – step or extension	
Primer/sealer/undercoat	
CLEAN UP	
Mineral turpentine	
Brush comb	
Rags	

Freshen up your home's exterior – with a little help from Mitre 10.

Buying a home is probably the largest personal investment you will ever make, so it is worth protecting against the weathering effects of Australia's harsh climate.

That's the main reason why regular outside painting is so important. But paint can also transform the appearance of your house. And whether you simply want to freshen up the timber trim on a brick home or completely repaint a weatherboard cottage, painting is still the easiest and quickest way to give it a bright new look. Doing the job well, however, depends not only on the colour or type of paint you select, but also on how you go about doing the job.

That's where this MitrePlan – and the advice of the experts behind the paint counter at your nearby Mitre 10 store – can help you achieve truly professional results.

Step 1: Choose your paint

Exterior:

Low Sheen Acrylic, Gloss Acrylic and Semi Gloss Acrylic. Acrylic paint is long lasting, weather resistant and provides high covering power. For use on masonry, brick, concrete, metal, render, fibre cement and suitably primed timber.

Timber Finishes:

Gloss and Low Sheen Acrylic. Recommended for exterior timbers such as fences, outdoor furniture, decking and pergolas. No primer required for most situations.

Gloss Enamel:

High quality gloss (oil or water based) enamel offers excellent covering power. Recommended for suitably prepared interior and exterior timber, metal and masonry. Resists knocks and scratches.

Step 2: How much paint?

For outside walls, multiply length by height to give you the area in square metres, then subtract door and window areas from the total. One litre of paint will cover approximately 16 square metres, but allow an extra 20% for rough or porous surfaces and an extra 10% for weatherboard edges.

Step 3: Preparation

The first thing here is to take a long, critical look at your house to see what needs to be done. Look for any defects that may affect the final finish. It's important to fix every fault before you begin or the paint won't be able to do its job properly. And there's no point spending time and money on a paint job that will soon flake and look bad.

New Surfaces:

New bare timber should be primed with an exterior timber primer first, then cracks and holes filled with an exterior wood filler, sanded smooth and dusted down.

Brick and cement render should be rubbed down to remove loose sand, and cracks or holes filled with an exterior filler, then sanded smooth, dusted off and undercoated so repairs won't show through.

Metal gates, gutter and downpipes should be washed with mineral turpentine and coated with an appropriate metal primer.

Painted Surfaces:

All peeling paint must be scraped or wire-brushed away, then primed. If you're unsure just how bad the old surface is, try the tape test (Fig. 1). Scratch the surface with a razor blade and press on a finger length of masking tape, then rip off. If some of the paint comes off, the surface should be stripped.

For large areas use a heat stripper to soften the old paint, making it easy to scrape off with a stripping knife (Fig. 2). Around windows where heat may crack the glass, use a chemical stripper such as Accent paint remover.

Then fill with an exterior filler (Fig. 3). Sand level with the rest of the surface. Thoroughly sand the whole area to be painted to clear any uneven spots and give the paint a slightly roughened surface it can stick to, especially if the existing paint is a gloss enamel.

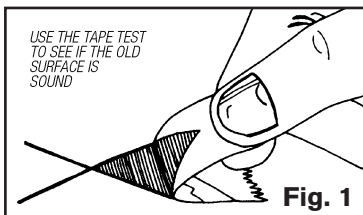


Fig. 1

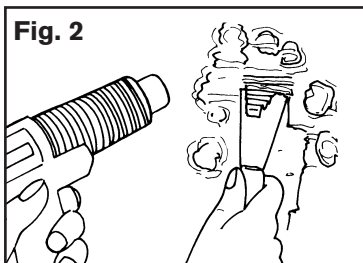


Fig. 2

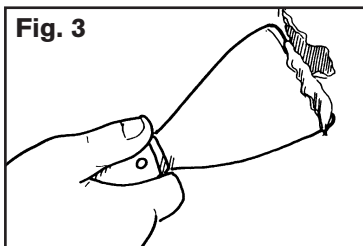


Fig. 3

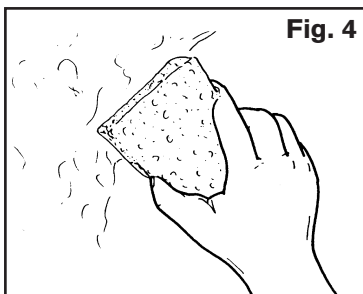


Fig. 4



Fig. 5

Exposed nail heads, if they are not galvanised, should be punched below the surface and the holes filled and sanded smooth to prevent rust stains. Use a sugar soap to remove all grease, dirt and dust (Fig. 4).

For metal guttering, downpipes, gates, or metal window frames (not aluminium) any rust should be cleaned away with a wire brush and coated with rust dissolver. Gutter leaks should be repaired first and then sealed with a silicone sealant. This will give a long lasting weatherproof seal, but be careful because many silicones cannot be painted over. Think about using a transparent sealant that will be essentially invisible.

Now's a good time to also remove and replace hardened or cracked putty in windows and fill exterior gaps, especially those caused by movement between bricks and concrete.

Step 4: Getting it on

The first step is to mix the paint thoroughly. Use a flat paddle stick or a ruler and stir from the bottom upwards (not just around) until there are no thick bits in the bottom (Fig. 5).

If painting the whole house, start at the top and do the fascia board and under eaves first, followed by the gutters. The walls come next, then the windows sills and doors and finally downpipes. In this way, any paint dripped onto a wall under the fascia or gutter will be covered up when you come to paint the wall.

Many exterior paints are self priming but check your label instructions before application. Use a roller if possible, as paint will go on five times faster than with a brush. After coating about one sq. metre, even out the paint film by lightly rolling across the surface with an almost dry roller.

Be sure to prime any new or exposed metal on gutters and downpipes before painting.

For windows, start by cutting in around the glass with a small sash brush, then use a larger brush for the surrounding frame. Use masking tape along the glass edges to give a clean finish.

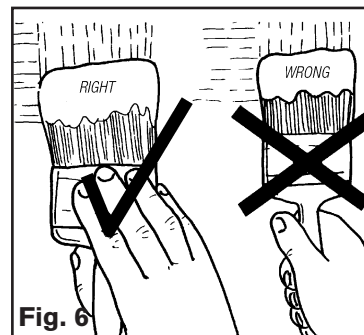
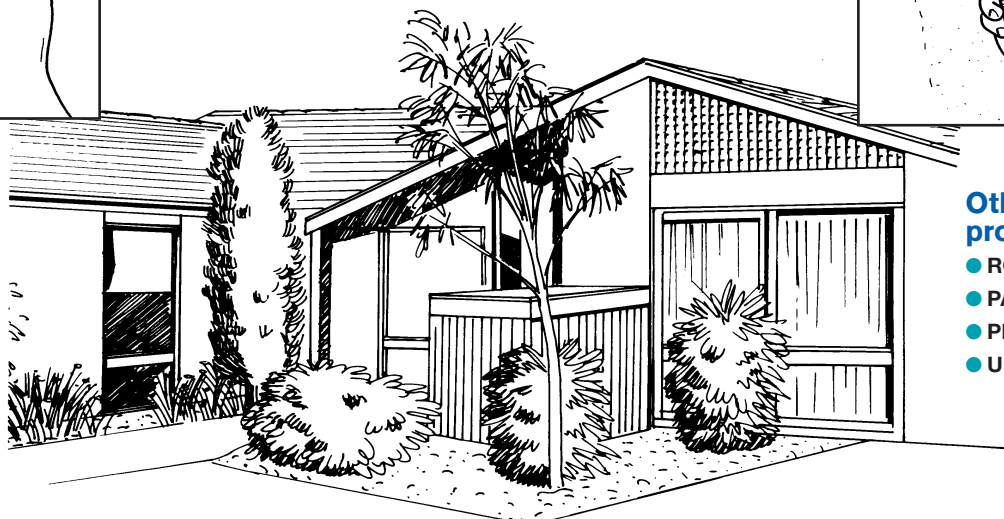


Fig. 6

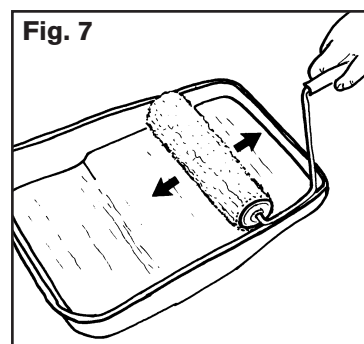


Fig. 7

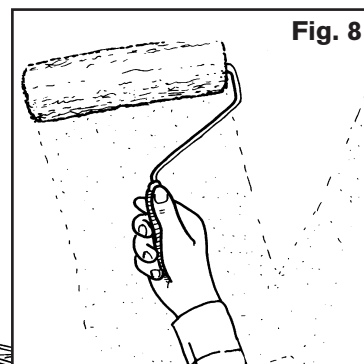


Fig. 8

Doors are painted from the outside in, doing the moulding first. Paint the edges, then the face, returning to the edges to lightly feather off any surplus paint with the tip of the brush. You'll probably be using an enamel here, so it's better to remove the door completely and paint on trestles. And you'll save a lot of fiddling by also removing the door furniture.

When to paint

Outside painting should only be done in temperatures between 10°C and 30°C. In summer, the best way is to follow the sun around your home and paint only on the shady side. A hot sun will dry out the surface too quickly, which may cause the paint to wrinkle.

If conditions are hot and windy and you are using acrylic paint, you can hose down the surface to cool it, then paint while the surface is still damp and cool.

However, if you are using solvent based enamel paint, the surface must be completely dry. The ideal time is about an hour after sunrise when the dew has had a chance to dry out and at least two hours before sundown or the onset of rain or dew. Even a small amount of moisture trapped under the new enamel will vapourise and cause blisters and peeling. Again always paint on the shady side, never in the sun.

How to use a brush

Hold your brush as shown (Fig. 6). Apply only enough pressure to support it with your fingertips. Dip only about half the length of the bristles into the paint, then tap the brush gently on both sides of the can to remove any excess. Apply the paint evenly using light, short strokes. After several brushes full, lightly stroke the surface in a uniform direction with the tip of the brush to give an even finish.

How to use a roller

Pour paint into a paint tray and move the roller back and forth in the tray to get paint deeply and evenly spread in the roller (Fig. 7). Don't put too much paint on as the surplus can flick off if you roll a little too quickly. Apply the paint by rolling an 'M' over an area about a metre square, then fill in the gaps by rolling randomly with even up and down strokes. Finish by stroking smoothly and lightly across the area to feather the edges. An even pressure will give you a fine result (Fig. 8).

Step 5: Cleaning up

Clean brushes and rollers using mineral turpentine for solvent based paints and clean water for acrylic paints. For brushes, work the bristles in the cleaning medium until all paint has been flushed out. Clean rollers by flushing out under running water for acrylic paint or by working turpentine through the nap for oil-based paints. Then wash in warm soapy water and rinse well. Always store brushes by hanging up, never standing up on the bristles. Set rollers on end to avoid the flat spot that results from resting a roller on its nap.

To dispose of any left over paint, pour the excess onto an absorbent material such as cardboard, kitty litter or shredded paper. Allow to dry and then dispose along with your household waste. Never dispose of unwanted paint down a drain or sewer.

Other exterior products available

- ROOF PAINTS
- PAVING PAINTS
- PRIMERS
- UNDERCOATS

MIGHTY HELPFUL HINTS TO MAKE THE JOB EASIER

■ If painting the whole exterior, a little psychology helps. Prepare and paint a wall or one section at a time – that way, you'll see real results in a matter of days. One finished wall does wonders for your motivation and you'll feel less daunted by the remaining ones which look shabby by comparison.

■ A lot of domestic accidents involve ladders – so secure extension ladders safely when working at heights. Lean the ladder so that the base is 1 metre from the wall for every 4 metres of height and tie securely at the top or bottom to stop slipping.

■ When buying any paint or stain, record the maker's name, type of paint and any colour mix details in a handy place – like the bottom of the can. Then when it's time to touch-up or re-coat, you'll be able to accurately re-order the right stuff.

■ If you're simply taking an hour or two's rest from painting, wrap your brush or roller in a plastic bag or cling film to keep it moist and ready to be used again. For longer breaks, clean up completely.

■ If you're using several cans of the same colour, thoroughly mix them together first to make sure the overall colour is consistent.

■ Don't try to make a can of paint go too far – the result can be too thin a coat and inadequate protection.

■ Always read the instructions on the paint can – they're there to help you achieve a quality finish.

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IMPORTANT: This project planner has been produced to provide basic information and our experienced staff are available to answer any questions you may have. However, this information is provided for use on the understanding that Mitre 10 is not liable for any loss or damage which is suffered or incurred (including but not limited to indirect or consequential loss), for any personal injury or damage to property suffered or sustained as a result of using the information contained in this MitrePlan Project Planner. Mitre 10 advises you to call in a qualified tradesperson, such as an electrician or plumber, where expert services are required, and to independently assess any safety precautions that will need to be followed prior to using the information in this MitrePlan Project Planner.

WARNING: There may be by laws or regulations of councils or other statutory bodies that you must comply with when following this MitrePlan Project Planner.

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