

PAINTING POINTS

One gallon of paint covers approximately 250 to 300 square feet of exterior wall. For example, a side of a home 40 feet long x 10 feet high = 400 square feet (less window and/or door surface area) requires approximately 1 ¾ gallons. When painting CEDAR SHAKE SIDING, use 200 square feet per gallon to determine the amount of paint needed.

All bare wood should be primed. The area must then be repainted, after it has dried, with full strength paint of the same color and brand.

Caulking should be done after priming and before painting to give the best appearance. All window and door trim boards should be painted on the face and side of the board for the best effect. New wood trim can be painted before installation to insure crisp lines where house paint and trim paint meet. Existing trim can be pried slightly away from the siding to prevent trim color from getting on the siding.

Screen frames should be painted before the screen is installed. If you are not changing the screening but only painting the frame, it will look much better if the screen is masked with tape before the paint is applied.

Prepping for paint can be done by scraping, or power washing with a high-pressure water pump. Pressure washing is by far the most efficient method as it removes all loose paint. If the operator is new at pressure washing, they should approach their work from a distance of five feet or more and always on an angle - not straight on. These machines can rough up the wood surface, even blast through the siding if not carefully handled. Sanding is the least desirable method of paint removal. There may be contaminants in any of the layers of paint being removed. RT Houston does not supply power washers but they are available at most equipment rental shops for around \$50.00 a day.

Cleaning up the scraps of paint chips is important. The job is unsightly when the lawn or flowerbeds around the house are left with debris. The best method is to use a shop vac, which generally does a good job. Any paint that is spilled should be cleaned up immediately. Nothing looks worse than paint spills on walls, sidewalks, driveways, air conditioners, etc. If the paint is not cleaned up properly, it will often take a power washer to remove it.

Cover shrubbery and plants, as well as anything else you want to protect from paint drips, with drop cloths, plastic sheeting or newspaper.

Leftovers, within reason, can and should be left with the homeowner. A partial and a full gallon of the main color can be left to provide the homeowner with touch-up paint; in the event something is replaced at a later date and requires the same color of paint. Any paint in excess of those small quantities should be returned to the warehouse, along with other leftover materials.