

Helpful Tips to Consider Before Painting Your Home

- Walk your neighborhood and note homes that you find appealing. What is it about the color or combination of colors that appeals to you? Are you drawn to homes that have contrasting shutters and front door, or do you prefer a scheme of closely related colors? You will want to consider the colors of the homes adjacent to yours. You do not want to copy the neighbors' colors, but you should not use colors that will "fight" with theirs either.
- Body/Siding Color – Cues from your partial or full brick façade. When selecting paint colors for the siding of a home that has a partial brick façade, that brick should be your first consideration. Whatever the color of the brick, look closely because it has more than one color. It will have subtle tones of other, less dominant colors. Draw out those subtle colors to choose the main body color.
- When you find a color you like, purchase small samples of similar colors and paint them onto the house in about 12" x 12" sections. Label each. Look at them over several days, at different times of the day. The few dollars spent on sample purchases will give a great deal of peace of mind when the job is done and you love your color.
- Your color selection has a strong influence on paint performance because the amount of ultraviolet light absorbed or reflected by the color affects how long a paint job will last. Dark colors absorb heat and suffer more moisture problems than lighter shades. That's why lighter colors last long and fade less than darker colors. And because dark colors fade faster, they are more difficult to touch up.
- Consider the exposure of the surface to be painted since southern exposure will fade more quickly than one facing north. Understand that a color on the north side will look completely different from one on the south or even the west side of the house.
- Painting in cold weather may be cheaper, but your paint might not have the opportunity to dry and adhere properly. Always consider exterior temperatures and conditions when painting your home.
- Trim and Accent Colors: Using a color strip that shows your house body color, select a color that is at least two shades (or colors) away from the chosen body color. This creates contrast. This is a safe choice.
- Proper preparation of all areas to be painted is essential for the longevity of the paint. Make sure that all surfaces are free of loose paint, caulked, warped or broken boards replaced if necessary, cleaned and primed. Your contractor or paint supplier can tell you how many coats of paint are recommended for coverage.
- Consider replacing the trim around the windows with PVC.
- Get a written estimate inclusive of all activities (prep, paint materials, number of coats, project timing, payment schedule, etc.). Ask for references from customers and suppliers.
- Ask your contractor for a Certificate of Insurance (for liability and workmen's compensation) showing you as the insured. Don't settle for a copy of a "generic" certificate; insist on one that is mailed, faxed or emailed from the insurance company. If there is any hesitancy from the contractor, find a different one. The insurance is what will protect you if one of the workers gets hurt or if your property is damaged.
- Your ARC Team can help with suggestions, if you're unsure about where to start!

