DIY Exterior

Painting Template

**1. Choosing the Right Paint**

- Select paint specifically formulated for exterior use

- Consider climate and weather conditions in your area

- Choose between:

- Flat: Hides imperfections, but less durable

- Satin: Good balance of looks and durability

- Semi-gloss: Highly durable, easy to clean

- Select color (consider HOA restrictions if applicable)

- Calculate paint quantity: 1 gallon per 250-400 sq ft, depending on surface

**2. Gathering Supplies**

- Exterior paint and primer

- Paint sprayer (optional, for large areas)

- Paintbrushes (75mm/3" for large areas, angled for trim)

- Roller frames and covers (22mm or 3/4" nap for rough surfaces)

- Extension poles for rollers

- Paint trays and liners

- Pressure washer or hose with nozzle

- Scraper and wire brush

- Sandpaper (80-grit and 220-grit)

- Caulk and caulking gun

- Wood filler (if needed)

- Drop cloths

- Ladder and/or scaffolding

- Safety gear (goggles, dust mask, gloves)

**3. Preparing the Area**

- Remove or cover light fixtures, hardware, and vegetation

- Lay drop cloths to protect landscaping and walkways

- Scrape off loose or peeling paint

- Sand rough areas (80-grit, then 220-grit)

- Repair any damaged wood or siding

- Fill holes with wood filler

- Caulk gaps and cracks

**4. Cleaning the Surface**

- Pressure wash the entire exterior (or use hose with nozzle)

- Pay extra attention to areas with mold or mildew

- Allow surface to dry completely (usually 24-48 hours)

**5. Priming**

- Apply primer to bare wood, repaired areas, or when making drastic color changes

- Use brush for small areas, roller or sprayer for large surfaces

- Allow primer to dry completely (follow manufacturer's instructions)

**6. Painting Technique**

- Start at the top and work your way down

- Paint in the shade when possible to avoid rapid drying

- Brush Technique:

- Use for trim, corners, and detailed areas

- Apply with long, smooth strokes

- Roller Technique:

- Use for large, flat surfaces

- Roll in overlapping W or M patterns

- Sprayer Technique (if using):

- Keep sprayer perpendicular to surface

- Use steady, even strokes

- Overlap each pass by 50%

**### 7. Order of Painting**

1. Start with overhangs and eaves

2. Paint siding from top to bottom

3. Do trim around windows and doors

4. Paint shutters (remove if possible)

5. Finish with doors, porches, and railings

**8. Number of Coats**

- Generally, two coats are recommended

- Dark colors or porous surfaces may require additional coats

- Follow paint manufacturer's recommendations

**9. Drying Time**

- Allow 4-6 hours between coats (check paint can for specific times)

- Avoid painting if rain is forecast within 24 hours

**10. Clean-Up**

- Clean brushes, rollers, and sprayer thoroughly

- Remove any painter's tape carefully

- Touch up any missed spots or drips

**11. Final Inspection**

- Check for any missed spots or uneven areas

- Touch up as needed

- Allow paint to fully cure before severe weather exposure (usually 7-14 days)

**# 12. Maintenance**

- Inspect annually for damage or wear

- Clean exterior regularly to maintain paint job

- Touch up small areas as needed to extend life of paint job

**Remember, exterior painting is weather-dependent. Choose a period of dry weather with moderate temperatures for best results. Take necessary safety precautions, especially when working on ladders or scaffolding. Happy painting!**