

## Three steps to a Perfect Paint Job

There are three things you can fail to do which will ruin an otherwise perfect house paint job. A paint job, no matter what paint you use, is extremely dependent on the prep which is done before hand.

You simply *must* do the following three things, or you can expect to see your new paint peel, flake, and/or spot.

1. You must wash the dirt off the house, preferably with a pressure washer.
2. You must remove any old loose caulk and replace it with a *latex caulk, not silicone*. You must remove old silicone *completely*; paint will not stick to silicone.
3. You must scrape off the old loose paint and sand the edges smooth.

Failure to perform these simple but tedious tasks will ruin an otherwise perfect job. You will be spending a bunch of money to paint your house; you want it to look good for a while after you finish.

After rinsing the house off from top to bottom with a pressure washer, remove any loose or flaking paint and caulk with a putty knife or paint scraper.

Next put new caulk in where you need it, especially around windows and doors, and anywhere there is horizontal trim. This will prevent water penetration during rain storms or sprinklers hitting your house.

Brush painting requires more skill than it seems. A steady hand and concentration are the keys. Don't be a dauber! Lay paint on in long even strokes, starting about an inch away from things you don't want to paint, then the second stroke does the detail.

When using a roller, be sure to do a small section, then brush over it to put brush lines in the paint. Then do another section. If you have horizontal siding, do the top two boards, four or five feet at a time, until you reach a cut off point like a window. Failure to carry through to a cut off point will result in ugly lap marks.

Even if you're paying a contractor to do the job, make sure they do the prep as well. This is one of the ways contractors can cut corners to

increase their profits, and the problems won't show up until they're long gone.

Anyone interested in finding out more is welcome to visit the Fixit Teacher website.