Surface
Preparation Safety

Dunn-Edwards PAINTS®

THE #1 CHOICE OF PAINTING PROFESSIONALS®

SURFACE PREPARATION SAFETY

Surface preparation before painting is one of the most important steps in a successful paint job because paint adheres better to a properly prepared surface. The presence of dirt, dust, grease, flaking paint, holes, or cracks severely limits a paint's ability to form a strong, long-lasting bond with a surface.

Surface preparation is essential and must be done safely to minimize potential hazards, especially if the surface may contain lead or asbestos. Here are some guidelines to follow.

Getting Started

:: Many factors (job size, building age, etc.) will determine what equipment you need.

:: You may need patching materials, sandpaper, wire brushes, scrapers, drop cloths and absorbent products like rags. Pressure washers are recommended for larger exterior jobs.

:: Protective clothing and equipment are essential. Gloves, goggles, coveralls, long-sleeve shirts, long pants, hats, shoe covers and respirators are all suggested. If you suspect lead or asbestos may be present, Dunn-Edwards® strongly recommends a properly fitted NIOSH-approved particulate filter mask (rated N95 or higher).

:: Following correct procedures is important for preparing surfaces and to guard against harmful conditions that may be found in some buildings. Proper techniques and procedures will be discussed later in more detail.

Major Health and Safety Issues

DUST AND DEBRIS

Scraping, sanding and patching are necessary for nearly all jobs and can create fine dust particles or fragments known as "nuisance dust." Extended exposure to such conditions without a particulate filter mask can be hazardous to your health.

LEAD AND ASBESTOS

Dust and debris may contain lead or asbestos, which greatly increases the risk of personal injury if proper safety precautions are not followed. Be especially suspicious of older buildings with badly deteriorating surfaces.

WHERE ARE LEAD AND ASBESTOS FOUND?

:: Lead-based paint is mostly found in houses built before 1950, although residential use of lead-containing paint was not banned until 1978.

:: Asbestos may be found in houses built before 1978, mostly in spackling compound, wallboard joint compound and sprayed acoustic ceiling texture. Other asbestos-containing building materials include insulation and asbestos-cement shingles and siding.

HAZARDS OF LEAD AND ASBESTOS

:: Lead poisoning through ingesting or inhaling can cause brain damage, especially in children under age six.

:: Pregnant women can pass lead to their unborn children, and nursing mothers can pass lead through breast milk to infants.

:: Asbestos that is inhaled can cause asbestosis (scarring of the lungs), lung cancer, and mesothelioma (cancer of the chest cavity lining). Exposures are cumulative, and smokers are particularly at risk

TESTING FOR DANGERS

There are several options when it comes to determining the presence of lead:

Option 1: Purchase a home test kit at a local hardware or home improvement store. Most tests involve mixing a testing solution and applying it to a painted surface. If the solution changes color, the paint contains lead.
NOTE: These kits only detect the presence of lead – not the amount or danger level of the lead. They cannot distinguish between true lead-based paint (up to 50% lead) and paint contaminated with residues of leaded gasoline exhaust.

Option 2: Lab testing – send paint chip samples to a certified laboratory for chemical analysis.

Option 3: Have a lead risk assessment done by a professional contractor who is certified by your state.
NOTE: Asbestos can be identified only by sending a sample to a certified laboratory or calling an asbestos abatement contractor. Taking samples yourself is not recommended.

WHEN TO CALL A PROFESSIONAL

:: **Certified Lead Abatement Contractors:** It's a good idea to use professionals for surfaces known to have lead-based paint if you don't want to risk being exposed. Contractors can be found at epa.gov/lead

:: **Certified Asbestos Abatement Contractors**: Professionals skilled at removing all types of asbestos-containing building materials, including acoustic ceiling textures, insulation and asbestos-cement shingles. Contractors can be found at epa.gov/asbestos

MOLD AND MILDEW

Do not scrape or sand a surface covered with mold or mildew. This can release airborne spores that may cause mold or mildew to spread. See Dunn-Edwards brochure on Mold & Mildew.

Safe Procedures

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

:: Work on one room at a time. Remove plants, pets and as much furniture as you can. Cover remaining furniture, carpets and drapery so dust won't penetrate porous materials.

:: Close off the work area by taping polysheeting over all doors, windows, floors and other exposed surfaces. Your Dunn-Edwards Paints store has tape and polysheeting for a variety of surfaces.

:: Turn off forced-air heating and air conditioning systems and cover vents with plastic.

WASHING SURFACES

:: Wash the work surfaces with a solution of water and an all-purpose household cleaner, available at most grocery stores.

:: If using TSP (Tri-Sodium Phosphate) in water, be sure to wear rubber gloves. TSP can be found at any Dunn-Edwards Paints store.

SCRAPING AND SANDING

:: Wear protective clothing and equipment, including a properly fitted NIOSH-approved particulate filter mask (rated N95 or higher) whenever sanding, scraping, or engaging in any activity hat generates airborne nuisance dust. Previously applied paints, caluks, and patching compounds may contain hazardous substances other than lead or asbestos.

:: Be sure to keep people who aren't properly protected out of the work area.

:: Do not use a belt-sander, propane torch, heat gun, dry scraper or dry sandpaper on surfaces that may contain lead or asbestos.

:: Use a spray bottle to wet the surface before scraping and sanding and use wet/dry sandpaper or wet-sanding sponges.

:: Follow general surface preparation information about patching. A Dunn-Edwards sales associate will be happy to help you with details.

USING PAINT REMOVERS

:: Paint removers are another option for removing paint from wood surfaces because they don't create dust.

:: Wear personal protection equipment, including gloves, goggles and vapor respirator, and work in a well-ventilated area to avoid breathing harmful fumes.

:: Follow label directions for safe handling, clean-up and disposal of materials

CLEAN-UP AND DISPOSAL

:: Big pieces can be swept. For the smaller stuff, it's best to use a HEPA filter-equipped vacuum cleaner. You can rent a HEPA vacuum from stores that carry remodeling tools. When finished, carefully empty the dust collected in the vacuum cleaner, being sure to dampen it with water first.

:: Mist dropcloths/plastic sheets before rolling them up to suppress dust.

:: Use heavy-duty plastic garbage bags to safely dispose of dust and debris.

FINAL WASHING AND RINSING

:: Wash all surfaces thoroughly with a detergent solution and rinse with clean water. Because dust and debris travel easily, make sure to wash all areas – including floors, stairs and other horizontal surfaces – even if they are not going to be painted.

:: Have plenty of sponges, rags and buckets. Use one bucket for the cleaning solution, and one bucket for rinsing.

:: Change rinse water frequently (at least once for each room being cleaned) and rinse or replace rags and sponges often.

PERSONAL HYGIENE

:: Don't eat, drink or smoke while in the work area.

:: Wash your hands and face before eating, drinking or smoking.

:: Shower as soon as possible when done with clean-up.

:: Make sure to wash clothes and wipe off shoes.

Please note that these suggestions are provided as a service to you. We are unable to guarantee or be responsible for the results obtained by these procedures. If you have additional questions, please call any of the experts in our customer service department.

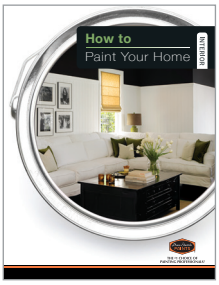
CAUTION: Scraping or sanding surfaces of older buildings (especially pre-1978) may release dust containing lead or asbestos. EXPOSURE TO LEAD OR ASBESTOS CAN BE VERY HAZARDOUS TO YOUR HEALTH. Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment during surface preparation and finish clean-up of any residue by water-washing all surfaces. For more information, see Dunn-Edwards' brochure on "Surface Preparation Safety" or call EPA's National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD, or visit www.epa.gov/lead or www.epa.gov/asbestos, or contact your state or local Health Department.

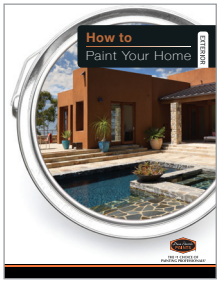
A GREEN LEGACY, A GREENER FUTURE.

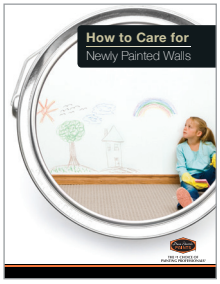
Dunn-Edwards has a green legacy that makes us proud and inspires us to do more. We are firmly dedicated to the principle of eco-efficiency, which we define as the ability to satisfy human needs in ways that minimize adverse impacts on energy and material resources, environmental quality, and human health and safety.

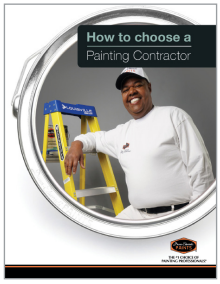
HEALTH & SAFETY when using water-based paints: **CAUTION**! INHALATION OF SPRAY MIST OR SANDING DUST MAY BE HARMFUL. Use only with adequate ventilation. Avoid breathing vapors, spray mist and sanding dust. Wear NIOSHapproved N95 particulate filter mask when spraying or sanding. Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Do not ingest. Close container after each use. **FIRST AID:** If swallowed, immediately give 1 or 2 glasses of water to drink – for emergency information, call 1-800-222-1222. If having difficulty breathing, move to fresh air. For eye contact, immediately flush with water for 15 minutes. For skin contact, wash thoroughly with soap and water. **KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.** For more information, see the appropriate Product Data Sheet(s) and Safety Data Sheet(s) available at dunnedwards.com.

CAUTION! WHEN SANDING, SCRAPING, OR ENGAGING IN ANY ACTIVITY THAT GENERATES AIRBORNE NUISANCE DUST, WEAR A NIOSH-APPROVED PARTICULATE FILTER MASK (N95 OR HIGHER) TO AVOID BREATHING DUST. WHEN WORKING WITH ANY SOLVENT-CONTAINING PRODUCT, WEAR AN APPROVED ORGANIC VAPOR/ PARTICULATE RESPIRATOR (NIOSH/MSHA TC 23C OR EQUIVALENT) TO AVOID BREATHING SOLVENT VAPORS AND DUST.









For more information, additional how-to guides may be found in-store and online at dunnedwards.com.

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