

Painting the interior trim

Checklist:

- Paint
- Primer
- Step ladder
- Caulk
- Goggles
- Painters cap
- Caulking gun
- Cleaning supplies
- Drop cloths
- Utility knife
- Painters tape
- Appropriate solvent
- Sandpaper 120-grit and 80-grit
- Paintbrushes
- Rubber sanding block
- Paint bucket
- Paint rags
- Wood filler
- Edging paint pad
- Putty knife
- Edging tool
- Strong light
- Brush comb
- Electric pad or random-orbit sander
- Deglosser
- Box fan

How to choose a trim color:

Consider using a different color trim than you have on the walls. Colors adjacent to each other on the color wheel offer some contrast. Colors opposite each other on the color wheel offer more contrast.



One: Clean woodwork.

- Because paint doesn't stick to dirt and grease, start with dusting and vacuuming the area.
 - Don't forget the tops of window and door casings.
- Clean the wood with a phosphate-free cleaner and warm water.
 - Use a sponge, a soft brush for crevices, and an abrasive-cleaning pad.
- Rinse and dry the surfaces with an absorbent towel.

Two: Protect other surfaces.

- Use a canvas drop cloths or plastic to protect floors.
- Protect surfaces next to the trim with painters' masking tape.
- Remove any hardware attached to the trim, or mask it with tape.

Three: Repair the surface.

- Sand out shallow dents and scratches.
- Use sandpaper or a sanding sponge for irregular surfaces.
- Start with 80-grit paper, then finish and feather into the surrounding area with 120-grit paper.
- For a deeply damaged area, use wood filler applied with a putty knife and sand level when it dries hard.
 - Sand the area with coarse sandpaper before applying filler.

Four: Sand and degloss.

- Lightly sand or apply a brush-on deglosser if the woodwork has a glossy sheen.
 - If using an electric sander, keep the tool moving on the surface to prevent the friction from melting the finish and gumming up the paper.
- Vacuum the sanding dust.

Five: Prime and caulk.

- Prime patched areas and wood made bare during sanding.
- Fill gaps and cracks between the trim and adjacent surface with caulk.
 - Cut a little of the tip off the cartridge, fill the joints, and smooth with a wet finger.

Six: Apply paint.

- Load the brush fully with paint by dipping 1/3 of the bristles in the paint and tapping the brush on the side of the can to remove excess.

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