

Remove Rusty Nail Stains

Checklist:

- Exterior paint
- Primer
- Sandpaper
- Wire brush
- Paint remover
- Paint brush
- Punch
- Caulking compound

Using uncoated steel nails where excessive moisture exists under the paint causes nasty rust stains. You can't remove them, but you can correct the moisture problem.

One: Locate the moisture.

- Try to figure out where the moisture is coming from.
 - Check for leaks in the eaves, evaporation from plumbing pipes, or sweating caused by heat from a kitchen.
- If you locate the source of moisture, try to eliminate the problem by getting rid of whatever is causing the moisture.

Two: Remove the rust.

- Sand around the area or use a wire brush to remove any stained paint around the nail heads.
- Clear down to the nail head.
- Sand the nail head to remove any built-up rust.

Three: Fix the nails.

- Use a nail punch and countersink the nail heads so they are 1/8" below the wood surface.

Four: Finishing touches.

- Use an even layer of undercoat primer to cover the nail and area around it.
- Fill the countersunk hole with caulking compound.
- Allow the compound to dry.
- Apply a coat of outside house paint.
- After drying, apply a second coat.