

A photograph of a single-story yellow house with a white porch and a green lawn. The house has a grey shingled roof and a white railing on the porch. There are several windows and a central door. The lawn is green and well-maintained. The text is overlaid on a green semi-transparent box at the top of the image.

Painting Vinyl Siding - Preparation, Priming, and Painting Instructions

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Phase 1: Preparation

Preparation is perhaps the most important phase of any vinyl siding painting project. Thoroughly prepping the panel surface ensures that you get lasting results.

Prep Checklist

Ensure that you have the following materials before you begin:

- Household cleaning detergent
- White vinegar
- Powdered oxygen bleach
- Water
- Pressure washer
- Soft bristle brush
- Spatula
- Epoxy-based filler
- Painter's tape
- Masking paper
- Caulk
- Painter's Plastic Sheeting

Step-By-Step Procedure

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1. Use a pressure washer to wet the entire surface area of the vinyl. Make sure that you avoid forcing water behind the siding panels as this could result in water damage or mold growth.
2. Wait a few minutes before using the pressure washer again. This should help loosen any dirt and make easier to remove when you run it over the surface a second time
3. At this point, you may notice dirt and grime build-up in some areas, particularly in the corners and hard-to-reach places that didn't come off when using the pressure washer
4. Mix a solution of household cleaning detergent and water, or make a cleaning solution that consists of white vinegar, powdered oxygen bleach, and water
5. Use a soft bristle brush to work-in the solution in the areas with dirt and grime build-up that didn't come off using the washer and follow it up with a rinse
6. Repeat step 5 above as many times as it takes to get rid of all the dirt and grime before letting the surface dry completely
7. Inspect the vinyl siding and check for any imperfections that may get in the way of achieving great results. Ensure that you:
 - Use a spatula to remove loose and peeling vinyl surfaces or paint
 - Use an epoxy-based filler to fill-up any small holes or cracks that may be present
 - Secure any loose panels with additional nails if required

8. Apply painter's tape to the edges of the siding, around door frames, window frames, trims, and any other borders that you don't want to get paint on. This will help you achieve neat and professional paint lines
9. Place masking paper over the floor edges and secure it with painter's tape
10. Use caulk over the masking paper to fill the edge where the floor and wall meet
11. Place painter's plastic sheeting over all the surfaces that you want to keep paint-free like the windows, doors, ground or any outdoor furniture that may be present
12. Once you've effectively prepped the siding surface, prepare your rollers and brushes for the task ahead by removing any lint that may be on them using painter's tape

Phase 2: Priming

Priming is an important step when painting vinyl siding. It involves the application of a primer, which is the undercoat that ensures that paint bonds to the vinyl surface. It is also necessary if you intend to change the shade of your siding from a darker color to a lighter one.

Priming Checklist

Before you begin, gather the following materials:

- Acrylic latex or acrylic urethane primer
- Paint stirrer
- Paintbrush and roller
- Paint tray

Step-By-Step Procedure

1. Use the paint stirrer to reintegrate any chemical separation in the primer
2. Pour some primer onto the paint tray
3. Use a roller to apply the primer onto the vinyl surface. Use a brush for hard-to-reach places, edges, around window and door frames and in the corners
4. Apply thinly and allow to dry for at least 24 hours before you apply paint

Phase 3: Painting

You're now ready to paint! Don't cut any corners. Ensure that you've completed the prep and priming phases before you embark on painting.

Painting Checklist

Before you start, you're going to need the following materials:

- Acrylic urethane/resin vinyl-safe paint
- Paintbrushes
- Paint rollers
- Paint stirrer
- Roller cage frame
- Roller grid
- Roller tray
- Paint bucket
- Respiratory mask
- Brim hard hat
- Painter's overalls
- Ladder
- Soft cloth or sponge
- Paint remover, thinner or stripper

Step-By-Step Procedure

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1. Ensure the vinyl surface has been sufficiently prepped and primed as per the steps provided in Phase 1 and 2 in the previous sections. The primed surface needs to have dried for at least 24 hours before paint application
2. Dress in appropriate painter's attire such as painter's overalls to avoid getting paint stains on your good clothes
3. Wear a respiratory mask to avoid inhaling toxic paint fumes that may be harmful to your health
4. Open the can of paint and use a stirrer to reintegrate any chemical separation that often occurs when the paint is stored for long periods
5. Pour the paint into a paint tray and use a roller to apply paint onto the vinyl panels. A brush is useful for hard-to-reach places and corners
6. For faster application over a large area, pour the paint into a paint bucket, insert a roller grid and dip a long-handled roller into the paint before applying onto the walls
7. To ensure even application, don't pile it on too thick
8. When painting a house that's more than one-story high, ensure that you wrap the top edges of your ladder with a soft cloth or sponge to reduce the pressure it exerts when you're leaning it against the siding wall. This would prevent any dents or scratches that may come about if you didn't wrap the ladder
9. Once you've applied the first coat of paint, leave it to dry for at least 24 hours before returning to apply a second coat
10. While two coats of paints should suffice, you can do a third coat if you want to enhance the color intensity but only after the second coat has completely dried

11. When you're through with the project, clean your rollers and brushes with multi-purpose detergent in conjunction with a paint thinner, remover or stripper to get rid of any paint residue
12. Use paint remover or stripper to get rid of any paint stains that may have accidentally splashed on surfaces and edges that may not have been properly covered with the painter's plastic sheeting, masking paper or painter's tape

Learn more:

- [Everything you need to know about painting vinyl siding](#)
- [The cost to painting vinyl siding \(calculator and chart\)](#)
- [Pros and cons of painting vinyl siding](#)
- [How to get paint off vinyl siding](#)
- [Optimal vinyl siding paint colors](#)
- [Can you paint vinyl siding a darker color?](#)