

Painter Photo Checklist

Painting looks simple — but surface prep, primer coats, and application method are what separate a job that lasts from one that peels in a year. When a homeowner disputes coverage, questions the number of coats, or files a warranty claim, the question is always the same: **can you prove the surface was properly prepped, primed, and that the specified product was applied correctly?** This guide gives your crew the exact shots to capture on every job.

THE 7 PHASES

Document Every Phase, Protect Every Job

01 PHASE Pre-Job Site Assessment

- Existing paint condition — all surfaces
- Caulk failures at trim & windows
- Color selection approval — signed off
- Peeling, cracking, or bubbling areas
- Surface texture irregularities noted
- Paint product & sheen level confirmed
- Water stains or mold before work
- Homeowner pre-existing damage documented
- Protection plan — furniture & floors noted

02 PHASE Surface Protection & Masking

- Furniture moved or covered with plastic
- Masking tape at trim & ceilings
- Exterior — plants & hardscape covered
- Floor drop cloths in place
- Outlet & switch covers removed
- Adjacent surfaces protected
- Carpet protection film applied
- Fixtures masked or removed
- Wide shot — full protection in place

03 PHASE Surface Preparation

- Failed paint scraped & feathered
- Patched areas — skim coat applied
- Pressure wash — exterior surfaces
- Sanded surfaces — grit & method
- Wood rot repaired or replaced
- Mildew treated with biocide wash
- Cracks & holes filled — product used
- Caulk applied at all trim joints
- Surfaces clean & dust-free before prime



04 PHASE Primer Application

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primer product label photographed | <input type="checkbox"/> Primer applied — full coverage shot | <input type="checkbox"/> Stain-blocking primer on water stains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High-build primer on rough surfaces | <input type="checkbox"/> Primer on all bare wood & patches | <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior primer on raw siding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primer dry time before topcoat noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Second primer coat (if specified) | <input type="checkbox"/> All primed surfaces — wide shot |

05 PHASE Paint Application

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint product label & color code | <input type="checkbox"/> Sheen level confirmed — flat / eggshell | <input type="checkbox"/> First coat in progress — wide shot |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cut-in lines at ceiling & trim | <input type="checkbox"/> Roll direction & overlap method | <input type="checkbox"/> Second coat after adequate dry time |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Third coat on accent or dark colors | <input type="checkbox"/> Spray application — tip size & PSI | <input type="checkbox"/> Backroll after spray — documented |

06 PHASE Trim, Doors & Specialty Work

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trim paint product & sheen | <input type="checkbox"/> Door edges & tops painted | <input type="checkbox"/> Cabinet doors — both sides painted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stair balusters & handrail painted | <input type="checkbox"/> Exterior fascia & soffits | <input type="checkbox"/> Garage door — product & coats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fences & gates — coverage complete | <input type="checkbox"/> Accent wall — coverage & edges | <input type="checkbox"/> Specialty coating (epoxy, etc.) documented |

07 PHASE Final Inspection & Closeout

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Masking removed — clean lines | <input type="checkbox"/> Touch-up complete — no holidays | <input type="checkbox"/> All surfaces — final wide shots |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paint cans labeled & left for owner | <input type="checkbox"/> Color codes & sheen documented | <input type="checkbox"/> Client walkthrough — approval noted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Protection materials removed | <input type="checkbox"/> Punch list — before & after photos | <input type="checkbox"/> Warranty documentation photographed |



HOW TO USE THIS IN THE FIELD

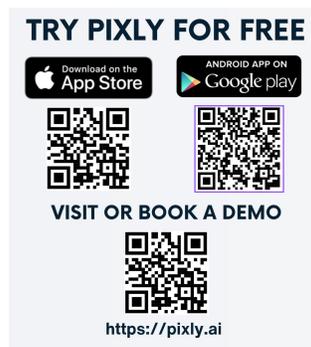
Turn This Checklist Into Your Daily Workflow

- 01 Photograph the Paint Label on Every Product Used**
Product name, color code, sheen level, and lot number — photographed at the start of each coat — is your proof if a color match or warranty dispute arises months later.
- 02 Capture All Surface Prep Before Primer Goes On**
Filling, sanding, caulking, and treating water stains are invisible under primer. These shots prove that prep work was done — not skipped — before the first coat rolled.
- 03 Document Every Coat with a Wide and Close-Up Shot**
A wide shot showing full coverage and a close-up of cut-in lines after each coat proves you applied the agreed number of coats to the specified surfaces.
- 04 Wide Shot Before and After Each Room or Surface**
A before-and-after pair for each room or exterior section shows exactly what you inherited and delivered — the strongest defense against pre-existing damage disputes.

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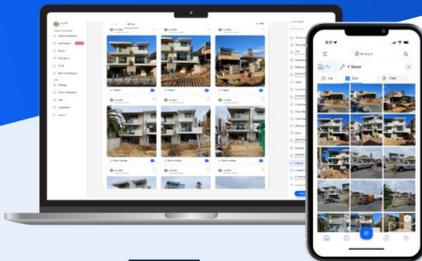
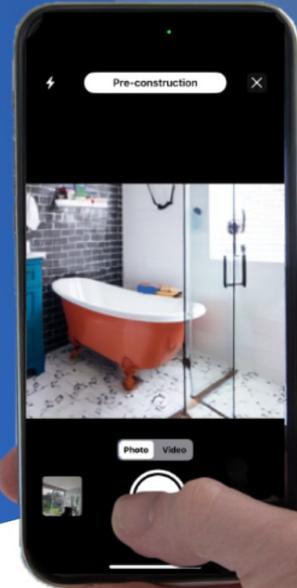
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