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The Homeowner's Paint Prep & Cost Guide

A free homeowner guide from housepainters.id

Choosing a Color With Confidence

Before you buy a single can

- ☐ Note your room's natural light direction (north-facing rooms read cooler)
- ☐ Pull a color cue from what's staying: flooring, cabinetry, major furniture
- ☐ Decide the mood first: calm and cozy, bright and bold, or timeless and neutral

Always test before committing

- ☐ Paint a sample patch directly on your wall, not just a chip in hand
- ☐ View the sample at morning, midday, and evening light
- ☐ Live with the sample at least a full day before deciding

The Prep Checklist That Actually Matters

Before any paint goes on

- ☐ Clean the surface — dust and grease block proper adhesion
- ☐ Patch and sand nail holes, cracks, and rough spots
- ☐ Prime bare drywall, stains, or major color changes
- ☐ Tape edges cleanly and cover floors and furniture

Don't rush

- ☐ Let each coat fully dry before the next — check the can's dry time
- ☐ Two thin coats beat one thick, drippy coat every time

Interior vs. Exterior: What Drives the Cost

Exterior costs more because of

- ☐ Weather-grade paint formulated for UV and moisture exposure
- ☐ More extensive prep: power washing, scraping, siding repair
- ☐ Added labor for ladders/scaffolding at height

Getting a fair quote

- ☐ Ask whether the quote includes full prep or just paint application
- ☐ Confirm the contractor is licensed and insured
- ☐ Get at least two quotes for any whole-house project

Ready to see your palette?

Get 3 personalized color palettes in 60 seconds at housepainters.id, or get matched with licensed local painters for a free, no-obligation quote.

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