

PAINTING EXTERIOR PVC TRIM, RAILINGS, ETC.

Exterior trim and other PVC items are excellent candidates for painting in order to

- Have the color of choice
- Change the degree of sheen or gloss
- Help obtain a uniform finish over joints and nailing

Proper surface preparation will ensure good adhesion, and a uniform finish:

1. Any mildew (gray, brown or black fungus) should be killed by applying a mixture of water and household bleach in a ratio of 3 parts water to 1 part bleach. Wear eye protection. Keep the mildew wet with this mixture for 20 minutes, then rinse off thoroughly.
2. Scrub off any dirt, treated mildew, etc. using a soft bristle brush and detergent. Rinse thoroughly.
3. For best paint adhesion, lightly sand any areas of the PVC that are at all shiny, using very fine sandpaper (#220 grit). Wipe off sanding dust with a damp cloth.

Apply the following:

- A. Primer: use a quality acrylic latex primer that is recommended by the manufacturer for exterior PVC surfaces. These primers are often described as “universal” or “stain blocking.”
- B. Paint: choose a top-of-the-line exterior 100% acrylic latex paint in a flat, satin, semigloss or gloss finish. Flat paints will de-emphasize any unevenness in the surface. Semigloss and gloss finishes will highlight trim, and make it stand out visually.

NOTE: Latex primers and paint will increase in adhesion, hardness and toughness as they weather and cure. Properties will be fully developed in one to two months of exposure. Do not apply paint that is any darker than the original color, to thin PVC materials including vinyl siding, because of potential warping problems associated with heat absorbed from sunshine.