



The PAINT MILL



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SINCLAIR REFINING COMPANY, Inc. 630 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK PAINT DEPARTMENT

XVII

December 1, 1946

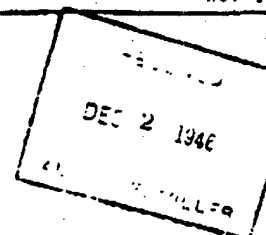
NO. 11

FUNDAMENTALS IN PAINTING

How to Paint Exterior Trim

By Wm. Don Jarvis

(Courtesy Western Paint Review)



Painting exterior trim sounds simple - and it is, but there is a way to do the most work with the least output of energy. And there is a knowledge that, if used, will cause the job to look better and last longer.

Definition First, how much of an exterior is considered trim? All the openings - doors, windows, screens, vents, trimmed arches and doorless openings, shutters, gates attached to the house, grilles, and miscellaneous bric-a-brac - are "trim". The definition changes to suit the job when the owner wants certain items added or omitted, and for different types of structures.

If, for instance, the residence is wood siding, much of the work ordinarily called trim, casings, vents, downspouts, etc. are painted with the siding. These items take more time to paint than straight siding, and less time to paint than if they were trimmed in a different color. Again, if the building is stucco with an overhanging roof, the underside of the overhang, gutters, vents, and other wood and metal surfaces attached to the wall must be painted with a different type of paint. These are estimated by the same rules used for trim and they are often called trim.

The important fact is, that while parts of a building are usually referred to as trim, other parts must be specifically named and priced for mutual agreement between the owner and painter.

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Preparation Sand, scrape and dust from the top down. Do eaves, gutters and upper vents first. Make all the high scaffold moves in succession rather than working high, then low. In this way the big equipment can be laid aside for stepladders and there is less clutter. When the work is hard to reach and it is desirable to prepare and paint each stretch to avoid duplication of effort, be sure the prevailing winds blow the dust and dirt away from finished work.

Remember when sanding muntins and sash bars that the sand on the paper is harder than window glass; it will scratch and ruin the glass. Be sure to remove all loose paint from sills. They are exposed to the sun most and paint breaks down faster on horizontal surfaces. They deserve the best possible preparation. Spackle the cracked wood with white putty to level the surface. This prevents dirt and water from lying in the indentations to mar the beauty and cause early failure.

White lead putty can be made of white lead paste and whiting well beaten together. "Beaten" may be taken literally because they mix better if actually hammered with a mallet. Another mixture can be made with ordinary putty and white lead paste; the latter usually needs some whiting added to it to make it thicker. White lead putty is better for all around exterior woodwork than regular commercial grades. Use every hygienic precaution to insure against lead poisoning. It must not contact open sores of the digestive tract.

Glazing Glazing, the installation of glass, was once the painter's job for all new structures but now only repair glazing is done by the painter.

The first problem is removal of the glass and old putty. When the putty is still soft enough to cut with a heavy knife, the problem is easy; remove the putty, then the glass. If the putty has become rock hard the glass should be broken out first. Always put heavy paper or cloth over the pane before hitting it to prevent splintered glass from flying in the face.

Hard putty is usually chipped out. Irons are made (like soldering irons) to soften the putty with heat and special caustics are sold to soften putties. Great care should be used to prevent splintering the sash. Neat re-puttying is difficult along rough and broken sash edges.

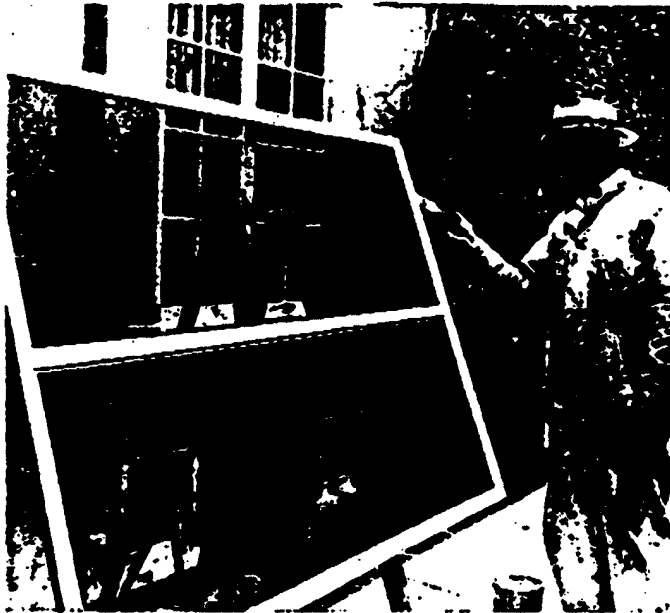
Every exterior job should be furnished with glaziers' points. If you have none try to save the points from the old installation.

Measure carefully for new glass. Put the rule on the putty side and allow enough glass to go under the putty, but do not make it to fit too snug or the expansion and contraction of the wood will break the pane. Allow $1/16$ " to $1/8$ " for each vertical side and $1/16$ " to $1/8$ " for the top only.

Prime the raw wood around the sash before putty is applied. Run a thin layer of putty around the opening, then push the glass against this putty and secure it with the points. Put plenty of putty all around the pane and smooth it at the right level with a firm stroke of the putty knife. Be sure the putty does not show from the inside, and that bare sash does not show from the outside.

Always remove and replace cracked or broken putties whether or not the pane is replaced.

Caulking Exterior trim jobs often call for waterproofing between the casing or frame and the wall. Caulking compounds that never dry hard are made for this purpose and are best applied with a caulking gun. This is a small



Paint the tops and bottoms of Screens. The two nails in the ladder make work easier and keep the trim away from the ground and dirt.

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hand operated piston and cylinder that forces the compound out a small opening and into the crack. The surfaces around the crack must be wiped clean.

Painting Trim Develop a system to prevent retracing steps. Sand, Dust, and putty first. Then consider how the sash or door must be left. Can it be open? Will it stay open or does it need a brace or block to keep it in place. Get the necessary materials together to do the whole job before you begin.

For an example, go through the motions of painting a double hung sash. The runs are never painted. The bottom and top of the inside sash is painted with the outside.

Raise the inside sash to within 2" or 3" of the top. Trace the putties starting with the left side of the horizontal top, then the right and left verticals. Face the sash and lower it to about 5" above the sill. The top can be wiped clean in this position. If the paint is fast setting, finish the bottom part by lifting the outer sash. If the paint is slow setting, paint the top of the outer sash and lift it to wipe the inside face clean of the fat edge. Then trace the putties, face it and lift it to within 1/2" of the top and paint the bottom edge. This exposes the lower section of the inside sash which can then be finished.

Next, paint the upper casing, side casings, and sill in the order mentioned and finish by painting under the sill.

For casement windows and doors, paint the top and bottom and the edge that faces out when they are open. Paint these edges first, trace the putties and face the sash. Systems like these mean speed. As experience is gained each man learns a system of his own that works well.

Painting screens offers a problem. The wire must be blacked. A carpet type applicator is best to put the black on with. Wipe the black off the frame to make covering easier. When possible do all the blacking one day and paint the frames the next so the black and the trim color do not streak.

All metal such as gutters, downspouts, wrought iron, pipe rails, etc. should be cleaned of rust and spot primed with red lead where the metal is bare, before recoating.

"Fundamentals of Painting" in the September issue of the Paint Mill covered briefly the types of paint to be used for exterior wood. It is applicable for painting exterior trim also and is recommended reading in conjunction with this article.

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