

Vermont Housing & Conservation Board

Lead Based Paint Hazard Reduction Program

Paint

- As a general rule, gloss paints are more durable than flat paints. The higher the gloss level of the paint the more durable it is. Gloss paints have a higher ratio of binder or resin to pigment.
- Paints with lower pigment to volume concentration or “PVC” ratios tend to be more durable.
- Increased coverage is gained at the expense of durability. High coverage paints tend to have a lot of pigment and are applied in a thinner coating that is not as durable.
- Latex paints are more water vapor permeable than oil-based paints.
- Latex paints have better cohesive properties or the ability to move and stretch than oil based paints do.
- Oil based paints have better adhesive properties that allow the paint to stick to, or adhere to, the substrate.
- Oil based paints are much better at preventing bleed through from water based extractives in woods such as cedar and redwood.
- The best latex paint is made with 100% Acrylic binder. Paints made with PVA or polyvinyl acetate binders are not as durable.
- The best oil based paints are alkyd types. Alkyd oils have been processed and are less likely to promote mold and mildew growth.
- Solid coat alkyd paint applied over non compatible surfaces such as existing non-alkyd paint layers may be more susceptible to blistering and paint failure.
- Exterior bare wood should be painted as soon as possible. Exposure to sunlight for as little as 3 to 4 weeks can adversely affect the paint’s ability to adhere to the wood.
- Oil based paint should dry 1 to 2 days between coats depending on conditions, latex paint can be recoated in a few hours.
- Exterior primer coats should be top coated within 2 weeks.
- Paint should be applied at temperatures of 50° F. or above. The temperature should remain above 50° F for 24 hours after paint application. Paint applied at temperatures lower than 50° F will not properly form a film which results in powdery layer of resin particles and unbound pigments.
- Moisture levels for application of paint on interior surfaces should be below 12%. Exterior surfaces should be no higher than 15%.
- A finished paint job consisting of a primer and 2 top coats should be applied to a dried thickness between 3.5 to 5 mils or slightly less than 6 mil poly.