

SVOA ARC members' recommendations for painting one's home:

1. Ask your painter - How do you plan to prepare the surface for painting? Proper preparation work is the key to a long-lasting paint job. Preparation includes washing, scraping, and sanding the surface as required. Paint Wood Siding (rough cedar) – Because of the process the developer undertook with the wood siding, the wood siding requires preparation prior to painting. To prevent peeling paint, discoloration bleed through, and mold, wood siding preparation must include priming the wood siding with an oil-based primer, with or without sanding. After the priming, apply two coats of satin finish paint.
2. Ask your painter - What areas are you planning to caulk? The most common cause of paint failure is due to moisture from water getting behind the paint. For that reason, caulking all joints, seams, gaps, and cracks in the surface is a must to ensure a tight seal.
3. Ask your painter - What kind of paint do you plan to use? Good quality paint should be recommended by good painters. Make sure the painter can explain the benefits of the paint they are recommending and ask for documentation of any manufacturer's warranty information and product data and evaluation of currently available paint. You might consider checking with Consumers Report for their recommendation.
4. Paint. The higher the grade of paint on average, the better coverage and longer lasting. The number of coats is also important. A good painter will bid two coats. Some contractors will provide a low bid using low grade and only one coat. Know your contractor and his reputation for quality work is more important than paint manufacturer.
5. Obtain references, three if possible and contact them. You want to hire a contractor who specializes in the type of work you need done. The contractor will likely give you references who had positive experiences, so be sure to ask them specific questions about workmanship that are important to you. You might be concerned about whether the contractor cleaned up his work area and kept to his timeline or whether the final invoice matched the estimate.
6. Check licenses and insurance with your city's Contractors Licensing Board. Ask the contractor for copies of his Contractor's Certification, Worker's Compensation status and Liability Insurance Certificate. A reputable contractor will have no problem providing copies of these documents.
7. Check with the Better Business Bureau to find out if complaints have ever been filed or are outstanding against the contractor.
8. Request a written estimate. Get at least three estimates and then compare prices with what is included. Note, the lowest bidder is not always the best value.
9. Sign a written contract. The contract should clearly spell out all the steps the contractor will take from beginning to end of your job, what supplies are included, the payment schedule, and the timeline for the project.