

## FACT SHEET

### PAINTING THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR HOME

Painting the exterior of your home will do more than simply create an attractive appearance, says the APMF. It will provide protection from the sun and weather which will otherwise gradually damage your home.

Many home-owners are now choosing to paint their homes to save money. With careful planning and preparation, the results will be rewarding. Before you commence you must consider: choosing appropriate colours, choosing the correct type of paint, selecting the appropriate applicators and properly prepare the surface for painting.

Finally, ensure that the correct application procedures and the manufacturer's instructions are followed.

Some points to remember when selecting colours for painting or repainting your home are:

- Research shows that cool roofs reflect more of the sun's energy away from the roof structure, reducing both the roof's temperature and the heat transfer into the roof cavity. This results in reductions in the building's cooling load and the corresponding reduction in cooling demand and energy consumption in summer.
- Cool roofs can be achieved by using a lighter paint colour or by using more sophisticated coating systems.
- Try to blend your home into its natural surroundings and with homes around you.
- Consider the colour of materials on the exterior which will not be painted, which will either contrast or compliment your chosen colour scheme.

- On homes with interesting architectural details, use an additional colour to emphasise them.

Paints available today are either solvent-based or water-based and often a choice can be made of either for a particular surface.

Solvent-based paints are solvent thinned types. Their properties include durability and resistance to abrasion. Clean-up is achieved with turpentine or mineral spirits. In addition, brush cleaning compounds are now available.

Water-based paints are water thinned. These paints are often selected because clean-up can be done with soap water. These paints are also durable, easy to apply and retain colour well with time. These paints also emit low amounts of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs), which is good for the environment.

Both these varieties of paints are available in a wide variety of sheens from flat to full gloss. A paint with higher gloss is preferable in situations where dirt collection or abrasion may be a problem. This would include doors and trim areas.

Exterior wood stains should also be considered for timber surfaces. These are available in solid and semi-transparent types. Solid stains will hide the colour of the underlying surface, allowing the texture to show through. Semi-transparent stains allow the natural wood colour to be featured. Excellent water-based low VOC products are also now available.

Keep your home looking attractive and beautiful, remember that the investment in a home is often the most significant that many make in their lifetime.