

TracyRoberts

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Sales News

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Using paint to add value to your home

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Article by Karina May

Whether you're thinking of sprucing up your place or you're putting the finishing touches on a new house, a fresh coat of paint is probably on your list of things to do.

If you want it done properly, leave it to the professionals - because your home shouldn't be the canvas for your amateur art.

A quick lick of paint is a sure-fire way to freshen up your home. Whether you're giving some love to the inside or out - for a quality job that comes in under budget - it's best to call in professional painters to help you out.

Stay on budget

Painting is one of the most commonly requested services on ServiceSeeking.com.au so we have some great insight into pricing – and can let you know how much you can expect to pay. Painters either quote an hourly rate or work out the cost via job size. Hourly rates are great for small touch-up jobs, but if you're looking to re-paint the entire house it might be more cost effective to get a quote for the total cost upfront. The more rooms you need painted the cheaper it should be and vice versa.

Whatever path you decide to go down, make sure you get a break down of the different costs involved i.e. materials and labour. That way you can determine if it's worthwhile purchasing the paint yourself and only paying the professional painter for their steady hands or splashing out for the whole hog.

Unless you're "in the know," you probably won't be able to get a better deal than your painter though. Professional painters often have special relationships with big paint companies like Dulux and Taubmans and can get your paint at a discounted rate. They also have the advantage of knowing what product is best suited to your project.

Hourly rates

Hourly rates for a professional painter range from \$25 to \$60, and the price depends on the size of the painting team – with the \$60 hourly fee generally fetching two men in white overalls.

If you have a large exterior painting job it's probably worth spending up big to get the job done quickly. And as the saying goes, many hands make light work, so in the end you might actually save money by paying the maximum rate.



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Top winter heating tips

Domain.com.au

With the mercury in every Australian city except Perth and Darwin expected to dip to a single digit during the nights this week, it feels like winter has finally blown in, full of cloudy days and toe-freezing evenings.

If you want to avoid feeling like you're living in a tent, now is the time to get your house sorted for winter.

Dragging the ankle biters across the countryside recently on one of those family road trips that feels more like three weeks of endless work rather than relaxing, we had the chance to stay at two different relatives' houses in the same town on successive nights.

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They were both pretty chilly evenings but neither that much colder than the other, and it was fascinating to see just how much warmer one house was.

The first property, a bare-fronted brick home that was well-sealed with wall-to-wall carpet, and heavy curtains with pelmets, was comfortable overnight to the point that it didn't really feel cold at all.

The next was an older fibro house whose foundations had shimmied and shifted overtime. There were no pelmets and mostly light curtains. It was freezing and had me reaching for a thick jumper and woolly socks.

It really drove home the point that it's not just important to artificially heat our homes, but vital to seal them up and insulate them too.

Five tips to keep warm

1. **Seal up all the gaps.** Windows and doors can leak in substantial volumes of cold air. But some simple draught stoppers fitted in or around door and window frames and at the bottom of doors can make a huge difference.

2. **Stop the gaps around internal doors.** If you have rooms you are not heating, such as laundries and bathrooms, you should draught-proof these too, so that when you close them off, there's no unwanted air leakage happening.

3. **Cover those windows.** Single-pane glass has little insulation value, so you'll need to cover it to keep the cold air out (or warm air in), especially overnight. The idea is to provide an air-trap between the window covering and the window. That's why heavy curtains that extend across to the sides of the windows, and down to the floor are recommended.

4. **Use the sun.** Harness nature by drawing back the curtains and blinds during the day to letting the sun's rays warm up the house, especially if you have north-facing windows.

5. **Floor coverings.** Timber floors really became popular a decade or so ago and show no signs of waning.

They can be a bit cold in winter though, especially if there is no insulation underneath. So it's time to roll out the carpet, or the winter rugs at least. The good news is, in summer you can lift them up and store them.

If you have tiles or polished cement in areas that get the sun in winter, you may be better off leaving them uncovered to let the sun work its magic by heating the floor during the day.

If you want to find out more about keeping your home warm in winter, visit [Environment Victoria](#), the [NSW Environment, Climate Change and Water site](#), or this interesting little presentation from the [Portland Sustainability Workshop](#).

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