

# Occupations and Workplaces

## Painter

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## What does a painter do?

A painter applies paint and other decorative finishes to interior and exterior surfaces of buildings and other structures.

Some of the main duties of a painter are to:

- Prepare surfaces to be painted (includes scraping, removal of wallpaper, etc.).
- Determine what materials will be needed.
- Use, clean, and maintain various equipment.
- Supervise apprentices or other workers.
- Provide estimates and invoices for clients.

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## What are some health and safety issues for painters?

Painters can work at a variety of workplaces, construction sites, homes, etc. and face a constantly changing set of hazards. The hazards include:

- [Working at heights](#).
- [Ladders, platforms and scaffolds](#).
- Working in [confined spaces](#).
- Risk of [eye injury](#).
- [Slips, trips and falls](#).

- Risk of injury from falling objects.
  - Exposure to [moulds, fungi and bacteria](#).
  - Exposure to [bird](#) and [rodent](#) droppings.
  - Exposure to paint products, solvents, [lead](#) and other toxic substances.
  - Proximity to [flammable or combustible](#) materials.
  - Working in [awkward positions](#), or performing [repetitive physical tasks](#).
  - [Standing](#) for long periods of time.
  - [Lifting](#) heavy or awkward objects.
  - Exposure to [heat](#) and [ultraviolet radiation](#).
  - [Noise](#).
  - [Stress](#).
  - [Electrical hazards](#) from working close to live electrical power lines or equipment.
  - [Shift work](#) or [extended work days](#).
  - [Working alone](#).
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## What are some preventive measures for painters?

- Check safety data sheet (SDS) of the paint or coating product for the selection and use of appropriate personal protective equipment and safe use of the product.
- Evaluate the work area for existing and potential hazards. Know the control measures of the identified hazards and associated risks.
- Learn the correct procedures for working at heights.
- Select the correct ladder for the job. Use extended handle paintbrush whenever possible, and eliminate the use of ladders.
- Avoid awkward body positions and take breaks when needed.
- Learn safe lifting techniques.
- Know how to prevent injury from electrical hazards. Maintain safe distances from energized electrical equipment or utility lines.
- Keep tools and equipment, and their safety features, in good working order.
- Wear appropriate personal protective equipment and footwear.
- Keep work areas clear of clutter and equipment.

- Learn safety procedures for working in confined spaces.
  - Maintain good ventilation during painting.
  - Know how to prevent exposure to bird and rodent droppings.
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## What are some good general safe work practices?

- Practice safety procedures for:
    - Working at heights
    - Working with [asbestos](#) contained products
    - Using [ladders](#)
    - [Lifting](#)
    - [Repetitive](#) physical tasks
    - Selection, use, maintenance and storage of [personal protective equipment](#)
    - [Confined space](#) entry
  - Follow company safety rules.
  - Learn about chemical hazards, [WHMIS](#) and [SDSs](#).
  - Know how to [report a hazard](#)
  - Follow [good housekeeping](#) procedures.
  - Select less harmful substances or products where possible.
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