



## Contracting the Right Paint Pro

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Finding the right painting contractor is just as important as selecting the perfect colors. If high quality paints are correctly applied, a beautiful, long-lasting paint job that delivers continued satisfaction will result. By hiring an experienced painting contractor you can expect an experienced crew that will complete your job in a neat, timely and professional manner. Remember a contractor's reputation and overall livelihood is built on referrals and they understand the value of high quality paint and how that is intertwined with customer satisfaction.

### Best Practices for Hiring a Painting Contractor

1. **Meet with each contractor** – Ask about the materials they use and if you can specify the paint you prefer. More important, do they favor using top-quality paint? For example, a high quality acrylic latex exterior paint can last up to 10 years or more, compared to only three or four years for ordinary paint.
2. **Check credentials** – After the initial meeting, call the Better Business Bureau (408.278.7401) to make sure the contractor is reputable.
3. **Require proof of licensing and insurance** – Make sure a contractor is licensed. Ask to see the license and check with the California licensing board (800.321.2752) to verify the licensee's status. Don't even consider hiring a painter who doesn't carry insurance since you could be liable if a painter is injured while working on the job.
4. **Get references** – Former clients are a great source of information. Request at least three references and ask to speak to them.
5. **Get detailed, written estimates** – After a walk-through with each contractor, request a bid from at least three. Be sure to inform the contractors that there are other bids on the table. Require they break down the cost of materials and labor. To get equitable estimates, ask that the contractors submit bids based on the same materials and level of workmanship including:
  - Specification of exact work to be done in all areas
  - Details as to products being used
  - Completion date, cost and payment terms
6. **Insist on a written contract** – You and your contractor should both sign a written contract that spells out important details like specifics on surface preparation, the exact paint to be applied and payment terms.
7. **Good communication** – An open dialogue with your contractor will ensure you are up-to-date on the project and it allows your contractor to make project or product recommendations.

Should you need referrals for painters or other craftsmen, The Color Coach of San Jose has compiled a list of reliable contractors and would be happy to provide these to you as part of our service.