



Painter and Decorator

Alternate title Painter

Description Painters and decorators prepare surfaces for painting, then apply paint, varnish, wallpaper and other finishes to protect, maintain and decorate interior and exterior surfaces of domestic, commercial and industrial buildings and other structures.

Painters and decorators may work alone or as members of a team. They often work from ladders and scaffolding and do a lot of bending and stretching.

Job Prospects/Employment Opportunities

Painters and Decorators are usually employed by painting and decorating contracting firms, or are themselves self-employed contractors. Some work for government agencies concerned with public works, housing and railways. Advancement to supervisory positions, technical training or sales work is possible.

Opportunities for painters depend mainly on the level of building and renovation activity. It is a large occupation with average job prospects. Given the high level of building activity in South Australia at the moment, demand is likely to be higher than usual.

- Typical duties**
- Work out the quantity of materials needed for the job by taking surface measurements or by looking at job specifications or drawings
 - Erect scaffolding, cradles and ladders and place dropsheets to protect areas from dripping paint
 - Remove old paint or paper by sanding or scraping or by using blowtorches or liquid paint removers and, when removing old paper, by using steam strippers
 - Prepare surfaces by fixing woodwork, filling or sealing holes, cracks and joints and washing them down to remove dust and grease
 - Select and prepare paints to match colours by the addition of tints
 - Brush, roll or spray the paints, stains, varnishes and other finishes
 - When wallpapering, set out the area according to the pattern match and starting point in the room, cut the paper to the appropriate length, apply paste to the back of each strip and hang the paper on the wall, smoothing out any wrinkles or bubbles
 - Spray paint surfaces using a spray gun or specialised equipment
 - Apply decorative paint finishes such as stencils, colour glaze, graining, marbling and lettering
 - Wash equipment and clean work areas

Work Conditions

Painters and decorators may work alone or as members of a team. They often work from ladders and scaffolding and do a lot of bending and stretching.

Personal requirements

- Physically fit
- Able to work at heights
- Enjoy practical work
- Good hand-eye coordination
- Normal colour vision
- Good sense of balance
- Able to work independently or as part of a team

Entry pathway Entry to this occupation is generally through an apprenticeship which includes on and off-the-job training. This will generally require successful completion of Year 10 or equivalent.

Completion of a pre-apprenticeship course can decrease the length of time of the apprenticeship.

Course or Training Package

- Certificate III in Painting and Decorating

Some people may complete a pre-apprenticeship or pre-vocational course before entering an apprenticeship. If you are still at school, **doorways2construction™** is the best first step into this career. Ask your VET coordinator for more details.

Specialisations Painters and decorators may concentrate on a specific area of work, such as the internal or external painting of domestic homes, commercial buildings or industrial structures and equipment.

Related Jobs Paperhanger

Further information

- CITB [www.citb.org.au]
- Construction Industry Skills Board [<http://www.constructionskills.com.au>]
- **doorways2construction™** [<http://www.doorways2construction.org.au/>]
- Construction Forestry Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) [<http://www.cfmeu.asn.au/construction/states/sa/>]
- Master Painters Australia [<http://www.mpa.org.au/index.php/>]
- Group Training Australia [www.gtald.com.au/]
- Big Plans [www.bigplans.com.au/]
- Be Constructive [www.beconstructive.com.au/]