

pointers

on prepping of the area

All electrical switch plates, door-knobs, etc., can be taken off, but be extra careful about exposing any electric wires. Ceiling fixtures can be dropped slightly to make the painting easier.

In a casual room, you might want to try unusual effects. There are special rollers to give you offbeat results. You can do the same thing by dragging or swirling brushes, whisk brooms, sponges and rags across the paint while it is still wet, keeping in mind that easy does it if you want to avoid a mess. To find out what kind of results these gimmicky styles of painting will produce, try practicing on something like a piece of scrap wallboard.

When you have estimated the amount of paint you will need, it's a good idea to buy an extra amount. For one thing, you always find something more you want to paint to blend in with the room. It may be only a bookcase or two, but if you have it on hand, it can be used at some later time for a touch-up job.

BUYING THE SAME kind of paint

apply to the outside

stained, they should be stained again when a second treatment is necessary. While you can paint over stain at a later time, a careful priming is required to prevent bleeding. If you paint the first time, you cannot stain later without removing the paint, which can be a messy job on shakes or shingles.

WHEN COVERING THIS kind of wood when a house is new, look over the various kinds of stains and pigmented sealers on the market. Manufacturers of some of the pigmented types say they are more durable than the clear coatings. Incidentally, you can get finishes with mildewicides in them or add a mildew-resistant compound to other finishes.

As you paint, follow the sun; that is, paint where the sun just has been. In that way, you will not risk having the sun dry out the paint too quickly. It's also a lot more comfortable painting while in the shade.

If you are using an extension ladder, use it with caution. Most accidents occur when a person leans over too far. Instead, get down and move the lad-

der. It may be a little more trouble and take a little more time, but it will keep you from getting hurt.

Work from the top of a house, usually in the left hand corner, and continue downward.

Always work in toward the wet paint, using wide, firm strokes. Dip the brush about halfway and pat off the excess on the side of the container. If you are using a roller, be sure it does not take up too much paint and do not spin the roller at the end of a stroke. With a roller, work from a dry area into a wet one.

Color changes the seeming appearance of a house. If you want something to be inconspicuous, such as a garage door, paint it the same color as the main part of the house. A house looks smaller when it is painted with dark colors. Light colors, of course, have the opposite effect. When a house seems to be too tall, paint it the same color as the roof. If you want it to seem higher, paint the siding a contrasting color.

If you have been content with the colors on your house over the years, don't experiment. Choose the same or nearly the same colors.

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