VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

HERITAGE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM

Painting and True Colours Project Guidelines 2026

True Colours Historical Paint Palette

Sponsored By:

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

PAINTING AND TRUE COLOURS PROJECT GUIDELINES

The Guidelines below will aid in project planning for Heritage Conservation Grants where paintingthe exterior fabric is part of the project. Painting projects are supported when the goal of the project is for restoration to a historically authentic colour scheme and the exterior fabric is in goodcondition.

Select grants will include a complimentary 25 gallons of Sherwin-Williams *Emerald Rain Refresh* paint. Grantees who have been awarded this additional support will be connected with a Sherwin-Williams representative to claim their paint.

Homes and buildings previously restored to an historical True Colours scheme or other verified scheme appropriate to the building's history and heritage values can be eligible for grant supportto repaint in the same scheme when required for long-term maintenance.

Applicants accepted into the program for painting in VHF's historical True Colours palette (homes built 1880s – 1920s) will be provided with a colour consultation as part of their grant award. The consultant will complete a site visit to identify the site's original colour scheme. Where possible, a selection of authentic colour schemes will be provided to the site owner for consideration. You canread more about the True Colours palette here.

Applicants applying for support to paint in a non-True Colours scheme will need to provideresearched evidence of the proposed colour scheme and its significance for the building, orpropose a process for identifying the significant scheme.

Planning your project

In planning for your painting project, it is important to follow best practices in preparing surfaces and in the application of high quality paints. Below you will find information to guide your planning process including:

- How a Heritage Conservation Grant painting project works
- Guidelines on selecting paint sheens
- Guidelines for preparing the paint surfaces
- Guidelines for hiring a painting contractor
- A note on lead-based paint
- List of painting contractors

VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

How a Heritage Conservation Grant painting project works

Painting grants through the Heritage Conservation Grant program are offered for the restorationof a home or building to an original, historically accurate or significant colour scheme. These grants follow a slightly different procedure than other conservation projects. Once an applicationis approved and paperwork is finalized, there are a few additional steps that must happen beforethe program participant begins their project:

1. After the applicant is notified of their acceptance into the program, VHF coordinates a sitevisit with a Heritage Consultant trained in colour sampling and analysis.
2. By sampling and analysis of the building's original fabric, the Heritage Consultant determines the original colours it was painted in. This information is used both in thegranting program as well as part of ongoing historical research
3. The owner or steward of the heritage property will be presented with the original colour scheme and, where possible, other options authentic to the time period and architecture.
4. After deciding on a scheme that reflects the building's history, program participants are encouraged to consult with VHF about the next steps in their project. Recipients of Sherwin-Williams paint will be connected with a Sherwin-Williams representative to claim that portion of their grant.

The purpose of the painting grant is to document and restore historical paint colours, and to highlight the history, architecture and heritage significance of the building. The program is recommended for people who are interested in discovering their home's or building's historicalcolour scheme and are open to following the recommendations of a heritage consultant.

Colour reflects parameters of personal choice, stylistic trends and paint formulations of different eras. Schemes may either be based on the True Colours palette for houses from the 1880s to the1920s or on other documented historical evidence for homes and buildings with unique heritageschemes or built outside of the True Colours date range.

The True Colours palette spans a range of architectural styles and so not every colour combinationwill be appropriate for your building. Different eras favoured different distributions of light and dark tones. Early styles such as Victorian, Queen Anne or Italianate houses were often painted with a mid-range to dark body colour with a darker trim. After the turn of the century, Edwardian houses were often mid-range to dark body colour with a lighter trim, and the popular Craftsman styles were painted with dark earth tone colours with a light or cream trim and dark sash. For more information, see Your Old House: True Colours.

As the scheme will include all features of the building, applicants whose building has non- paintable components such as vinyl windows are encouraged to apply first for a grant to restorethese components to their historical state.

Guidelines on selecting paint sheens

Historical paint was often oil-based, mixed on-site with natural pigments. This resulted in a glossy,durable finish that brought out the intensity of the colours used. Current-day painting trends favour the use of flat paint, particularly on exterior siding. However, to replicate an authentic historical look VHF requires that grant participants avoid a matte or flat finish.

VHF recommends the following Sherwin-Williams products and sheens for a hard-wearing, authentic look:

• Body – *Emerald Rain Refresh Satin*

• Trim – *Emerald Rain Refresh Semi-Gloss*

• Doors and window sashes – *Emerald Urethane Gloss*

Guidelines for preparing the paint surfaces

To inform you on the importance of the proper surface preparation steps for painting theexterior of an old house, please read the following article adapted from *The Old House Chronicle Magazine*: “Proper Siding Preparation” by Peter Hudy, 2000.

Important to note and communicate to the painting contractors: Power washing is not an appropriate surface preparation method for old houses.

The paint on the outside of a house is a sacrificial layer that is there to protect the more expensive siding and mouldings underneath. As such, it is designed to ensure that the sun and rain don't penetrate into the more delicate interior. To accomplish these goals, the paint must meet certain requirements: It must be solid to prevent moisture and rain from penetrating; it must be flexible to move with the movement of the boards underneath as they expand and contract with temperature changes; it must be strong tostick to wherever it is applied; and it should be beautiful, too. And it must do all of this at the same time. Amazingly, good quality paints can do all that and more.

The key step in the painting process is surface preparation. It is what will make or break the final result, either ensuring a durable paint job or guaranteeing one that will fail before you can blinkyour eyes. Yet it is also the one that appears to be the most laborious, expensive and the least rewarding.

In theory, we all know what needs to be done: scrape off the old, loose paint, wash off the dustleft behind, and then we can get to the fun of watching our house be reborn under a layer of beautiful, fresh paint. We know that this is what should be done – but not all paint jobs prioritize this step. And there lies the problem. There are even some painters who don't bother scraping at all, figuring instead that the new paint will somehow stabilize the old, fill in all the cracks, and last for another 100 years. Unfortunately, this is wishful thinking.

VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Steps for Proper Surface Preparation:

1. Manually scrape off the loose and flaky old paint. **DON'T use a power washer becauseit will chew into the wood underneath and that damage will be virtually impossible to repair.** The best tools and techniques to use depend on nature and the magnitude of the job at hand. A good quality hand scraper with a blade that can be resharpened works well to loosen and remove paint.
2. Feather out the edges left at the margins of the old paint so that you have a smooth surface. Use medium-grit sandpaper on a sanding block and smooth the edges of thepaint. What you are trying to achieve is a surface that does not have sharp edges or breaks where the paint meets exposed wood.
3. Wash with bleach to thoroughly clean the dust off the surface. Remember, if dust is left behind the new paint won't stick to the surface. Following the bleach wash, rinse the surface by hand with clean water. Change your water frequently so that the rinse water is clean. Take the time to let the surface dry, but don't wait too long or else airborne dust will settle on the siding and you will have to wash again. If the weather issunny and it doesn't rain, one week will probably be enough. If you have sprayed yourhouse with a hose to rinse it, you might have to wait much longer.
4. Prime with a high-quality primer (Remember: you get what you pay for). For old houses, oil-based primers may be better than latex because they will penetrate into the wood and condition it, replacing the wood's natural oils that have been lost overthe years. Many painters prefer a brush for application of the paint because it covers uniformly and gets into every nook and cranny. The goal at this step is to uniformlycover the entire surface with the primer, leaving you ready for the next step.
5. Top with two coats of a high-quality paint. Again, you get what you pay for and materials end up being only a small portion of the total cost of the project. Modern latex paints may offer the best option for your topcoat. They allow you to apply a uniform paint layer directly over the oil-based primer. They weather well and offer an ease of application that is desirable. Again, a brush works well to uniformly spread thepaint and ensure adequate coverage.
6. Conduct yearly maintenance: look for loose paint areas, spot scrape, sand, prime andfinish them. This maintenance is to ensure that the outer layer of the house stays intact. If you skip this step, the inevitable small cracks and flakes in the paint layer willallow moisture and water to pass into the wood underneath and eventually the entirepaint job might be ruined. Although it seems tedious, this is an important componentof the whole process.

With some attention to detail, wood siding will continue to provide protection and elegance toyour house for your lifetime and beyond.

From the Victoria Heritage Foundation's website, the recommended steps for paint preparation are as follows:

• Remove damaged or deteriorated paint before repainting to the next sound layer using the gentlest method possible (hand scraping and hand sanding).

• **No media (e.g. sand) blasting or power washing wood siding.**

• Washing is acceptable only by hand and garden hose.

• No stripping by torch.

• No grinding or heavy abrasive sanding that damages wood surface.

• Ensure a clean surface, free of grease, dirt, mildew, etc. by washing wall surfaces, overhangs, porch ceilings and eaves troughs, inside and out, by hand with environment-friendly cleaners. Rinse thoroughly.

• Crystalline deposits, which develop under eaves and protected areas, are a major cause of peeling; remove by washing and rinsing as above.

• Areas of heavy paint build-up, alligatoring, blistering, scaling and peeling, or areas which show a moderate to heavy chalk deposit must be thoroughly prepared to ensurepaint adhesion. Remove to a sound substrate by scraping, sanding and wire brushing.

• On rough-sawn textured shingles, previously stained weathered surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned with a stiff fibre brush and a mild, biodegradable remover such as sodiumhydroxide, to remove "dead" wood fibres.

• Glossy surfaces under eaves and protected areas that are not exposed to normal weathering should be dulled by sanding.

• Where bare wood is exposed, spot prime with a high quality oil-based primer.

• Loose or warped siding and shingles must be nailed flush with surface using appropriate nails.

• Fill all crevices, nail holes and cracks.

• All loose or split caulking on windows and doors is to be removed and replaced. Re-caulkwith flexible, paintable caulking, and then prime.

• Loose and deteriorated window putty must be removed and replaced.

• House must dry between washing and painting, to ensure surface will not resist new paint. Wood moisture content should not exceed 12%; use a moisture met

A note on lead-based paint

Any home built before the 1990s has a chance of having lead-based paint on its exterior. Dangersassociated with lead-based paint can be mitigated by an experienced professional, which is why itis important to work with a contractor who is familiar with older homes and who understands proper procedures around hazardous materials. Discuss the potential risks with your contractor before beginning work in order to ensure that there is a plan in place. Please refer to and follow WorkSafe BC's full guidelines: Safe Work Practices for Handling Lead, WorkSafe BC, 2017.

Ultimately, being aware of and following safe worksite practices is the responsibility of the property owner and their contractor(s). VHF is not liable for any failure by owners and contractorsto adhere to safety requirements.

Guidelines for hiring a painting contractor

Getting a Quote:

Please obtain at least 2 quotes from painters on the provided list. You may also submit a quote from a painter that is not on this list. However, they will need to contact us and provide referencesfor us to consider their quote. Please ensure that any painters not on our list are willing to follow these guidelines before asking them to provide a quote for your project. Quotes usually vary greatly in cost and detail. This variety is often due to how busy painters are and how much surfacepreparation they feel is necessary.

Please note that **a typical historical scheme will feature at least three different colours** (body, trimand sash at a minimum) and for an accurate sense of cost this should be reflected in your quotes.

Make sure to ask painters for references from homeowners they have recently worked for. Theywill be on your property for up to a few weeks or more and it is important to hear what other homeowners thought of their work ethic, style and timeliness.

Paint used for the project should be of high quality (we recommend the Emerald Rain Refresh line at Sherwin-Williams) to ensure accuracy of the colours from Vancouver Heritage Foundation's True Colours Palette. **Ask painters to specify in their quote what paint they plan to use.**

Sherwin-Williams is the sole corporate sponsor of the True Colours Program.
Financial support for the True Colours program is also provided by the Walsh Foundation, private donors and the Heritage Conservation Grants Program partner the City of Vancouver.

VANCOUVER HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Painting Contractors

Heritage Painting & Decorating
5907 Culloden St. Vancouver David Forrester, 604 818-5485
D_forrester4@hotmail.com

Dunbar Painting
3891 Dunbar St. Vancouver Coby Cohodas, 604 788-3382
www.dunbarpainting.com

Careful Painting
Derek Bardon, 604 619-0335
info@carefulpainting.ca

Prorise Painting
Joseph, 604 338-4817
joseph@prorisepainting.com
www.prorisepainting.com

ProCrew Painting
Cyrus Jagosh, 604 785-2739
cyrus@procrewpainting.com
www.procrewpainting.com

CertaPro Painters
Michael Del Pellaro,
604 737-9002
mdelpellaro@certapro.com
www.certapro.com

Renfrew painting and staining
Rob, 604 773-7445
Info@renfrewpainting.com
www.renfrewpainting.com

Kerr Brothers Painting
Dan and Cliff Kerr, 604-733-4733
Dk15@shaw.ca
www.kerrbrospainting.com

Renaissance Painting and Restoration
Eric Goodwill, 604 358-4918
eric@renaissancepainting.ca

Barwick Painting
3650 W 3rd Ave. Vancouver
Geoff Barwick, 604 880-5175
info@barwickpainting.com

Warline Painting
Heidi Nyline
T: 604 542-5064 | C: 604 315-9643
www.warlinepainting.ca

Holloway Painting Ltd
Steve Holloway, 604 418-2112
steve@hollowaypainting.ca
www.hollowaypainting.ca

Priority Painting
Joe Rotunda, 778 861-3995
info@prioritypainting.ca
www.prioritypainting.ca

Rhino Design Inc
2711 East 15th Ave Vancouver.
Craig Cope, 604 726-5803
ccope@rhinodesign.ca

Remdal Painting & Restoration
Justin Roukema, 604 882-5155
info@remdal.com
www.remdal.com

Colin Griffinson Inc
Melissa Heer,
604-266-9840
melissa@colingriffinsoninc.com
www.colingriffinsoninc.com

** Vancouver Heritage Foundation cannot legally recommend any of these trades or companies. They are names that have been passed on to us by homeowners and professionals who have been happy with their services. We have been told that they have experience working with old buildings, renovations or heritage restoration. We would greatly appreciate your feedback on working with any company we passed on to you, or to be notified about a change in their contact information. Likewise, if you come upon a trade or company that you would like to recommendto others, please let us know.*

Please provide two quotes for the painting of your building from this list. You may also submit a quote from a painter that is not on our list. However, they will need to contact us and provide references for us to consider their quote. Please ensure that any painters not onour list are willing to follow our Guidelines before asking them to provide a quote.