

Hiring a Professional Painting Contractor

By Stan Hallett
Maine Painting LLC



Before you decide to hire the least expensive painter you can find, or "do it yourself", here are important points to consider that suggest the lowest price may not be the best value.

Safety

Painting can be hazardous work, whether it's working on a ladder or dealing with solvents and dust. Hiring a professional contractor means you don't have to worry about these problems.

Health

If your home or business was built before 1978, it may have been painted with lead-based paint, which can cause serious health effects when it is scraped or sanded in preparation for repainting. Professional contractors will take appropriate steps to protect you. Painting contractors are required to furnish EPA-produced pamphlets to their residential customers before they begin a job that involves disturbing lead-based paint in or on a residence. Professional painting contractors will understand and be willing to follow the recommendations on this pamphlet.

Preparation & Painting

Getting the surface properly prepared makes all the difference. Professional contractors know the value of preparation and will do it right.

Knowing Paints and How to Apply Them

The choices today are more complicated than just oil or latex, and professional contractors will know what works, how to use it, and will have the right tools for the job. Professional contractors utilize and partner with professional paint, coatings, and wallcovering suppliers.

Cleanup and Disposal

Hiring a professional contractor means you don't have to worry about dealing with paint residues and other leftovers. Professionals will know how to handle hazardous wastes that may be part of the job.

How to Choose the Right Contractor for Your Project

Once you have decided to contract with someone to do a particular painting and decorating project, how do you go about selecting the right company? Do you make your selection on price, size of company, years in business, or other criteria?

To locate the names of reputable contractors, there are many sources of information. Some of these sources are friends, relatives, architects and design professionals, and local "quality-oriented" paint supply stores. However, these sources can only give you limited general information. In order to make an educated decision, you need some specific information about any person or firm you are considering hiring.

In Southern Maine we recommend using **Home Project Partners**. They are an established Maine company that matches homeowners with experienced residential home repair and remodeling contractors throughout Cumberland County, York County and southern New Hampshire. All contractors are carefully pre-screened to ensure they are dependable, responsive and do top-quality work. They even make sure they're insured and have all necessary licenses. This service is provided at no cost to the home owner. You can find their website at <http://homeprojectpartners.com>

Always Verify the Contractor is Licensed and Insured

Quality contracting firms will be only too happy to provide you with copies of their certificates of insurance. Maine Painting carries \$1,000,000.00 (one million dollars) in liability insurance (Insurance Agent: Kelly Pepin, Insurance Professionals, 448 Long Plains Rd, Buxton Maine 04093 – Phone (207) 727-4800).

Not all states and municipalities require licensing (Maine does not) however business registration with your state and municipality is generally a minimum requirement. [Maine Painting LLC](#) is a limited liability corporation registered with the State of Maine Bureau of Corporations, Elections & Commissions.

Written Contracts are a Must

Reputable contractors will encourage the use of a written contract. This contract should clearly explain the scope of the work to be performed. It should also cover such items as surfaces to be painted, methods and extent of surface preparation, time schedules for the project, and payment procedures. Knowing the total scope of the work enables you to carefully evaluate the different bids you may receive with the proper information and keep them on a level playing field. The contract serves to protect both you and the contractor. See a sample of Maine Painting's contract at <http://mainepainting.com/sample.pdf>



Maine Painting
"When You Need it Done Right"

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