



step-by-step with Modern Masters

FRONT DOOR PAINT | A Guide to Painting Your Front Door, Back Door, or Side Door



There are two ways to paint your front door. Pull the hinge pins and lug the door onto sawhorses and then reinstall OR leave the door in place and get beautiful results without making a mess.



PICK YOUR COLOR

Use our free Front Door paint app from the app store to see your door instantly transformed. Our 24 colors have been carefully chosen using the emotional color wheel and the latest in color design. Choose a color that is an expression of you and gives people a glimpse of who you are. By changing just the color of the door, you can change the whole look of your house, in just one day. So, go ahead, express yourself!

TEST YOUR DOOR

You need to know if your door was previously painted with latex or oil paint. Testing is easy. Dip the corner of a rag in rubbing alcohol. Rub on the surface of the door and if any paint comes off, it is latex paint, if no paint comes off, its oil paint. If oil paint was used, or for new unprimed doors, you will need to apply a bonding primer first.

TIMING IS IMPORTANT

Pick a day that's good for painting. You will need to keep your door open during the process so it's best to paint during mild weather. Start between 8am and 10am.



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SUPPLIES

Work clothes, clean rag, dropcloth, stir stick, clean bucket, good quality paint brush (2-3 inches wide), painter's tape (optional), step stool.

PREP IT

If your door has latex paint on it, simply clean off any dirt or dust and wipe dry. If mold or mildew is present, remove with retardant solution and let dry thoroughly. If your door has oil paint on it, is a new unprimed door, or if you are applying a light color over a dark color, prime with a bonding primer first. Open the door and use a chair or something sturdy securing it from behind to prevent it from moving/swinging while you paint. Lay a dropcloth under the door. Cover anything with the painter's tape that you think you will have trouble painting around cleanly, remove weather stripping from jam if possible. With the lid tightly in place, shake the jar well and begin.

PAINT IT

1. Paint the door edge first. The general rule is, when a door is painted different colors on two sides each side gets a different color. The hinged edge gets the outside color when the door swings in. If the door swings out, it's the opposite.
2. If the door already has painted hinges, paint them again. If they are metal, you can leave them as is.
3. Next, remove or paint around any numbers, windows, or hardware.



4. If your door has raised panels, paint the reveals first and then the panels.
5. Paint cross pieces. Paint the rails starting with the top one working down. Paint horizontally, left to right. The bottom may include weather stripping so try to edge it carefully.
Getting a clean edge if you didn't tape: lightly load the brush with paint and lay it crosswise at the edge patting the edge lightly. This will give a natural edge to the door. Then paint a vertical stroke to smooth out the paint surface.
6. Lastly, paint the stiles (verticals). Make the final brush strokes on the two side stiles go from top to bottom in one stroke.
7. Wait an hour and then repeat the process. Three coats may be necessary if you are applying a light color over a dark color as we did on the door shown without priming. You will have enough paint!
8. Leave your door open for at least 2-3 hours to dry. Remove any tape.

You are done!