

PAINTING & DECORATING

Painters and decorators 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

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 paint spattering
- Remove old paint or paper by sanding or scraping or by using blowtorches or liquid paint removers and, when removing old paper, by use of steam strippers
- Prepare surfaces by fixing woodwork, filling or sealing holes, cracks and joins, and washing them down to remove dust and grease
- Select and prepare paints to match colours by the addition of tinters
- 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
- Apply decorative paint finishes such as stencils, colour glaze, graining, marbling and lettering
- Wash equipment and clean work areas.

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.

Ideal Personal Requirements to gain an Apprenticeship:

- Reasonable physical fitness
- Ability to work at heights and outdoors
- Normal colour vision
- Entry requirements may vary but, generally, you need at least the successful completion of Year 11
- Having completed some work experience or study (VET/pre-apprenticeship program) in this industry is highly recommended

Education and Training to become qualified:

- Complete a 4 year apprenticeship
- Trade school training is 'off the job' at a Trade training facility