Home Painting Checklist: From Choosing Colours to the Final Finish

A simple guide for Geelong homeowners planning an interior or exterior repaint: find colours that suit your home, shortlist favourites and choose a painter with confidence.

1. Find colours that suit your home

Start with the look you want, then shortlist palettes that could work with what you already have.

What are you painting?

- ☐ Living room
- ☐ Bedroom
- ☐ Kitchen
- ☐ Bathroom
- ☐ Home office
- ☐ Exterior

What look are you going for?

- ☐ Bright and airy
- ☐ Warm and cosy
- ☐ Calm and natural
- ☐ Classic and timeless
- ☐ Bold and modern

What must the new paint work with?

Floors _____ Cabinets _____ Furniture / roof / brick _____

Paint Colour Inspiration for Geelong Homes

Circle one or two palettes that match your look. Each card shows a possible main wall colour, a coordinating colour and an optional accent. You do not need to use every colour shown.

Living room



Warm Contemporary ○
Look: Warm and cosy
Use: Ivory for walls, Sand to coordinate, Taupe optional accent.
Check: floors, sofa and daylight.



Coastal Calm ○
Look: Bright and airy
Use: Soft White for walls, Sea Mist to coordinate, Stone Blue optional accent.
Check: flooring, furniture and natural light.



Earthy Modern ○
Look: Calm and natural
Use: Oatmeal for walls, Olive Grey to coordinate, Terracotta small accent.
Check: floors and how the light changes.

Bedroom



Soft & Romantic ○
Look: Warm and cosy
Use: Ivory for walls, Dusty Pink feature wall, Mauve Grey optional accent.
Check: bedding and lamp light.



Modern Retreat ○
Look: Bold and modern
Use: Stone for walls, Eucalyptus to coordinate, Deep Green bedhead wall.
Check: evening light and flooring.



Coastal Bedroom ○
Look: Bright and airy
Use: White Mist for walls, Powder Blue feature wall, Sand optional accent.
Check: morning light and flooring.

Kitchen



Classic Neutral ○
Look: Classic and timeless
Use: Cream for walls, Greige to coordinate, Warm Grey cabinetry or accent.
Check: cabinets, benchtop and floor.



Nature-Inspired ○
Look: Calm and natural
Use: Pale Sage for walls, Olive accent. Natural Oak is timber, not paint.
Check: benchtop and existing timber.



Modern Contrast ○
Look: Bold and modern
Use: White for walls, Stone to coordinate, Charcoal cabinetry or feature.
Check: lighting and benchtop.

Bathroom



Spa Inspired
Look: Calm and natural
Use: Pale Sage for walls, White trims and ceiling, Sea Glass optional accent.
Check: tile colour and bathroom lighting.



Contemporary
Look: Bold and modern
Use: Off White for walls, Warm Grey to coordinate, Slate accent or tiles.
Check: tiles, fittings and bulbs.



Warm Minimal
Look: Warm and cosy
Use: Cream for walls, Beige to coordinate, Clay optional accent.
Check: tiles and mirror lighting.

Home office



Light & Focused
Look: Bright and airy
Use: Warm White for walls, Pale Sage to coordinate, Grey Green optional accent.
Check: window glare and screen light.



Deep & Sophisticated
Look: Bold and modern
Use: Stone for walls, Petrol Blue feature wall, Navy joinery or accent.
Check: daylight and desk lighting.



Warm Creative
Look: Warm and cosy
Use: Sand for walls, Caramel to coordinate, Clay small accent.
Check: flooring and furniture.

Exterior colour combinations

Your home affects the choice. Coastal homes may face salt-laden air and strong winds, so ask your painter about exposure. Older weatherboard homes may need extra preparation. Brick has its own colour, so choose trims, doors and roof colours that suit it. For contemporary homes, check the roof, window frames and any render together.



Coastal Inspired
Look: Bright and airy
Use: Warm White for walls, Sea Mist for trims or details, Blue Grey for a door or accent, Sandy Beige to coordinate.
Check: roof colour and exposure to salt air and wind.



Heritage Weatherboard
Look: Classic and timeless
Use: Cream or Ivory for walls, Muted Sage to coordinate, Deep Green for a door or accent.
Check: roof, existing trims and any applicable approvals.



Modern Contemporary
Look: Bold and modern
Use: Warm White for walls, Greige to coordinate, Mid Grey for trims, Charcoal as an accent.
Check: roof, window frames and any brick or render.



Natural Earthy
Look: Calm and natural
Use: Sand for walls, Warm Stone and Sage to coordinate, Deep Taupe as an accent.
Check: brick, landscaping and timber features.

All palettes are illustrative inspiration, not exact paint colours or manufacturer codes. Colours on screen and in print differ, so always test physical samples. Some colours, such as timber, are existing materials, not paint.

Before you finalise

Colours look different on a wall than on a page.

- [ ] Test large paint samples beside your existing finishes, and check them in morning, afternoon and artificial light.
- [ ] For an exterior colour change, check whether any approvals are needed, such as heritage or body corporate rules, where applicable.

2. Record your shortlist

Note your favourites here. You can ask a painter for advice before your colours are final, and a painter can advise on products and finishes.

Room or area	Preferred palette or colour	Final colour name or code (when confirmed)

3. Choose your painter with confidence

Start with a short list of painters you would be comfortable having in your home.

- [ ] I have checked reviews and photos of similar completed jobs.
- [ ] I have two or three written quotes that list what is included and excluded.
- [ ] I have a budget, and I understand the total cost and payment terms.
- [ ] I have checked insurance and workmanship warranty details.

Compare three quotes

Fill this in as quotes arrive.

Remember: the cheapest quote may not include the same work or materials. Check that each quote covers the same areas, preparation and paint before you compare prices.

Compare your quotes	Painter A	Painter B	Painter C
Total price			
Areas included			
Preparation and repairs			
Paint products and number of coats			
Start date			
Estimated duration			
Insurance			
Workmanship warranty			
Payment terms			
My preference			

4. Questions to Ask Before Hiring a Painter

Tick each question once you have asked it. Use your own words: these are just starting points.

- [ ] Can you give me advice on my colour choices, and is that included in the quote?
- [ ] What exactly is included in the price, and what is not?
- [ ] Will your own team do the painting, and who will be on site each day?
- [ ] How long will the job take, and when could you start?
- [ ] If extra repairs or costs come up, how will you tell me, and will I approve them first?
- [ ] Who moves the furniture, and how will you protect my floors and belongings?
- [ ] What happens if bad weather delays an outdoor job?
- [ ] How will the site be cleaned up each day and at the end?
- [ ] What happens if I am unhappy with part of the finished work?
- [ ] Can I see photos of similar jobs you have completed?

5. Arrangements before painting begins

Put the details in writing so nothing is left to memory.

- [ ] Confirm the final colour names and codes in writing.
- [ ] Confirm the start date, how long the job will take and who your contact is.
- [ ] Agree who moves furniture, how belongings are protected and how access will work.
- [ ] Agree how any extra repairs or costs will be approved before they are done.

6. Before You Sign Off on the Finished Work

Walk through with the painter in daylight before you make the final payment.

- [ ] The finished colours match the colours we agreed.
- [ ] Every area listed in the quote has been painted.
- [ ] The finish looks even in daylight, with tidy edges and good coverage.
- [ ] Any touch-ups are written down and agreed, with a date for completing them.
- [ ] The property has been cleaned, and floors, furniture and gardens are as I left them.
- [ ] I have the invoice, the warranty details and a record of the paint colours used.

Ready to turn your colour choices into a painting plan?

Painters of Geelong can discuss your colour choices, assess the surfaces and provide a written painting quote. Colour consultation is included with every quote, so you can talk to us before your colours are final.

Call 0431 261 281 or visit paintersofgeelong.com.au/contact-us.html.

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