

Trade Profile

Painter and Decorator



red-seal.ca
sceau-rouge.ca



Employment and
Social Development Canada

Emploi et
Développement social Canada

Canada 



Trade profile

Painter and Decorator



Structure of the Trade Profile

This profile has two sections that provide a snapshot of the trade's description, and all trade activities as they are organized in the Red Seal Occupational Standard:

Description of the Painter and Decorator trade: An overview of the trade's duties, work environment, job requirements, similar occupations and career progression

Task Matrix: a chart which outlines graphically the major work activities, tasks and sub-tasks of this standard

Major Work Activity (MWA): the largest division within the standard that is comprised of a distinct set of trade activities

Task: distinct actions that describe the activities within a major work activity

Sub-task: distinct actions that describe the activities within a task

Description of the Painter and Decorator Trade

“Painter and Decorator” is this trade’s official Red Seal occupational title approved by the CCDA. This standard covers tasks performed by painters and decorators.

Painters and decorators apply decorative and protective finishes in residential, commercial, institutional and industrial settings. They prepare a variety of surfaces (wood, masonry, drywall, plaster, concrete, synthetics, stucco and metal) using a wide variety of tools, equipment and techniques prior to the application of materials such as paint, high performance coatings, waterproofing, fireproofing, clear finishes, wall coverings and specialty finishes. These materials are applied for a variety of reasons such as substrate protection, decoration, sanitation, identification and safety.

Painters and decorators apply the products adhering to manufacturers’ recommendations, industry standards and project specific specifications. They take care to protect the environment and other surfaces from unintended overspray, paint splatter or damage by ensuring proper containment or protective coverings are utilized.

Painters and decorators are employed by construction companies, painting/restoration contractors, municipalities, facility owners, maintenance contractors, or they are self-employed. They work on residential, commercial, institutional and industrial projects. Some painters and decorators may work for years on a single site like a condo, office tower, vessels, vats, tunnels, bridges, dams, towers, power plants and other large infrastructure projects. Others may work for contractors that rarely work on the same site more than once, such as residential, office and retail locations.

Painters and decorators may come in contact with hazardous materials such as isocyanates, free silica, lead, volatile organic compounds (VOC), dust, fumes, mists and carcinogenic materials. They protect themselves and others by using required personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment. They must also be aware of these materials’ environmental impact (e.g., waterways, air quality, soil contamination).

They may work at heights while preparing surfaces or applying coatings using various types of access equipment such as ladders, scaffolds, swing stages, power elevated work platforms and other specialty equipment requiring good balance and physical flexibility. Painters and decorators build knowledge, confidence and trust in their equipment and co-workers to perform their work in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Key attributes for people entering this trade are manual dexterity, excellent colour perception, an eye for detail and artistic aptitude. The trade often requires working in a variety of different positions such as squatting, standing, kneeling and climbing to perform tasks such as abrasive blasting, spraying, and brush and roller work. Painters and decorators must have the ability to plan and schedule work and read drawings. They must have knowledge of many types of products, their properties and their applications and safe handling procedures according to manufacturers’ product data and safety data sheets. They must be able to calculate areas and relate such calculations to required material.

Good communication and customer service skills are required by painters and decorators who often interact with home/business owners, contractors, interior designers, architects, engineers, co-workers, other trades and site personnel. Experienced painters and decorators may advance to supervisory positions for painting contractors or in other related fields such as construction management, instructing, estimating or building inspection.

Painter and Decorator

Task Matrix and Weightings

A – Performs common occupational skills

16%

Task A-1 Performs safety-related functions 21%	A-1.01 Uses personal protective equipment (PPE) and safety equipment	A-1.02 Maintains safe work environment	
Task A-2 Uses and maintains tools and equipment 27%	A-2.01 Maintains tools and equipment	A-2.02 Uses rigging, hoisting and lifting equipment	A-2.03 Uses access equipment
Task A-3 Performs routine trade practices 31%	A-3.01 Uses documentation	A-3.02 Determines project requirements	A-3.03 Plans job
	A-3.04 Protects surroundings	A-3.05 Handles materials	
Task A-4 Performs quality control assessments 14%	A-4.01 Assesses substrate conditions and deficiencies	A-4.02 Assesses product conditions and deficiencies	A-4.03 Assesses quality of painted or coated surfaces and wall coverings
Task A-5 Uses communication and mentoring techniques 7%	A-5.01 Uses communication techniques	A-5.02 Uses mentoring techniques	

B – Prepares surfaces

23%

Task B-6 Performs general surface preparation 29%	B-6.01 Removes existing paints and coatings	B-6.02 Removes existing wall coverings and adhesives	B-6.03 Cleans surfaces
	B-6.04 Primes surfaces	B-6.05 Sands surfaces	B-6.06 Applies caulking
Task B-7 Prepares wood surfaces for paints, coatings and wall coverings 17%	B-7.01 Treats wood surfaces	B-7.02 Repairs minor imperfections in wood	
Task B-8 Prepares concrete and masonry surfaces 17%	B-8.01 Mechanically treats concrete and masonry surfaces	B-8.02 Chemically treats concrete and masonry surfaces	B-8.03 Repairs concrete and masonry surfaces
Task B-9 Prepares metal surfaces 19%	B-9.01 Treats metal surfaces	B-9.02 Repairs metal surfaces	
Task B-10 Prepares plaster surfaces and drywall 18%	B-10.01 Repairs existing plaster surfaces and drywall	B-10.02 Finishes new drywall	

C – Prepares and applies residential, institutional and commercial paints, coatings and finishes

24%

Task C-11 Prepares for application of residential, institutional and commercial paints and coatings 37%	C-11.01 Prepares residential, institutional and commercial paints and coatings	C-11.02 Installs residential, institutional and commercial reinforcing mesh	
Task C-12 Applies residential, institutional and commercial paints and coatings 48%	C-12.01 Applies residential, institutional and commercial paints and coatings with brushes	C-12.02 Applies residential, institutional and commercial paints and coatings with rollers	C-12.03 Applies residential, institutional and commercial paints and coatings with applicators
	C-12.04 Applies residential, institutional and commercial paints and coatings with spray equipment		
Task C-13 Applies decorative/specialty finishes 15%	C-13.01 Applies paints and coatings using decorative techniques	C-13.02 Creates faux finishes	C-13.03 Applies gilding
	C-13.04 Applies stencils and graphics	C-13.05 Creates textured finishes	C-13.06 Applies multi-spec coatings

D – Prepares and applies wall coverings

7%

Task D-14 Prepares for application of wall coverings 40%	D-14.01 Treats surfaces for wall coverings	D-14.02 Lays out surface	D-14.03 Prepares wall coverings
Task D-15 Applies wall coverings 60%	D-15.01 Applies adhesives	D-15.02 Installs vinyl wall coverings	D-15.03 Installs fabric and natural material wall coverings
	D-15.04 Installs rigid wall coverings	D-15.05 Repairs existing wall coverings	

E – Prepares and applies wood finishes

8%

Task E-16 Prepares for wood finishing applications 48%	E-16.01 Conditions wood surfaces	E-16.02 Applies wood fillers	E-16.03 Seals wood surfaces
	E-16.04 Prepares wood finishing products		
Task E-17 Finishes wood surfaces 52%	E-17.01 Brushes on wood finishes	E-17.02 Wipes on wood finishes	E-17.03 Sprays on wood finishes

F – Prepares and applies industrial paints and coatings

22%

Task F-18 Prepares for application of industrial paints and coatings 53%	F-18.01 Prepares industrial paints and coatings	F-18.02 Installs fibre-reinforced plastics (FRP)
Task F-19 Applies industrial paints and coatings 47%	F-19.01 Applies industrial paints and coatings with hand tools	F-19.02 Applies industrial paints and coatings with spray equipment