Paints & Stains
AT CURTIS LUMBER

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885 Route 67
Ballston Spa, NY 12020
518.885.5311

Hoosick
P.O. Box 98
Hoosick Falls, NY 12090
518.686.7391

Granville
9511 Route 22
Granville, NY 12832
518.642.2855

New Berlin
3106 County Highway 18
New Berlin, NY 13411
607.847.6101

Burlington, VT
315 Pine St.
Burlington, VT 05401
802.863.3428

Schuylerville
30 Saratoga St.
Schuylerville, NY 12871
518.695.3242

Queensbury
460 Big Bay Rd.
Queensbury, NY 12804
518.792.8601

Delhi
46631 State Highway 10
Delhi, NY 13753
607.746.2386

Sherburne
1056 County Route 23
Sherburne, NY 13460
607.674.2533

Williston, VT
349 LeRoy Rd.
Willistion, VT 05495
802.863.3428

Warrensburg
185 River St.
Warrensburg, NY 12885
518.623.3281

Schroon Lake
1314 Route 9
Schroon Lake, NY 12870
518.532.7404

Greene
1294 State Highway 12
Greene, NY 13778
607.656.4123

Norwich
48 Hale St.
Norwich, NY 13815
607.337.9322

East Greenbush
1657 Columbia Turnpike
Castleton, NY 12033
518.477.7503

Perth
3883 State Highway 30N
Amsterdam, NY 12010
518.883.9663

Hamilton
15 Eaton St.
Hamilton, NY 13346
315.824.2233

Plattsburgh
140 Tom Miller Rd.
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
518.561.2691

Delmar
11 Grove St.
Delmar, NY 12054
518.439.9968

Fort Plain
6236 Route 5S
Ft. Plain, NY 13339
518.993-5755

Waterville
961 State Highway 12
Waterville, NY 13480
315.841.4111

Ray Brook
1134 NYS Route 86
Ray Brook, NY 12977
518.891.2216

CURTIS LUMBER
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Getting Started

Whether you are finishing your latest deck project or want to give your living room a warm look and feel, a new coat of paint or stain is one of the easiest ways to add value and style to your home. With so many selections on the market today, it can be hard to know where to start.

No matter where you are in your process, your local Curtis Lumber is the smart place to begin. Our experienced salespeople will guide you through your finish selection and application process to achieve the look you want.

Types of Finishes

There are many types of coatings that can be used to protect, preserve, and add color to surfaces. The most common types are paints and stains.

Paints— A coating that lays upon the surface and has little penetration into the wood, drywall, or other surface. Paints will provide an even, opaque finish that will not show as much of the wood grain or texture of the surface. The color selection of paints is virtually endless and your local Curtis Lumber can custom match any color.

Stains-These coatings penetrate the surface and will show more of the texture or wood grain than paint. Stains will provide a semi-transparent, semi-solid or solid finish and are available in many colors.

Polyurethane- These coatings have little or no color and simply serve as a protective finish to wood. Polyurethane can be oil based (alkyd) or water based, and available for either interior or exterior use. Because they finish hard and durable they are frequently used over stains to then provide a hard enamel finish to the surface.

Specialty Finishes

In addition to pure paints, stains, and urethanes, there are a variety of coatings that blur the lines between the three. Porch floor paint is an enameled paint that finishes with a hard surface to resist heavy foot traffic. Garage floor finishes contain chemicals that resist oil spills, hot tire pick up, and adhere well to cement. Drylock is a paint-like material that seals pores in cement to create a water barrier for basement floors and walls. Faux finishes are decorative glazes that can add texture and create very special looks.

It is also important to note that some finishes are custom formulated for specific jobs. For example, Log Cabin stain is manufactured exclusively for sealing log homes.

Each type of finish has a specific use. If you are unsure of which type is the best for your job, stop into your local Curtis Lumber, where our paint specialists will guide you to the right coating for your project.

Choosing the Right Finish

A perfect finish begins long before any coating is applied. There are many considerations that go into choosing the perfect coating.

Paints work well in cases where you want the surface to be covered in a uniform and opaque finish. Paints can go over many surfaces including wood, drywall, metal, concrete and more. Stains are a good choice for areas where you would like the texture of the wood to show through or when you need a coating that sticks well to the surface. Polyurethanes are used to protect bare wood or over an interior stains. They create a hard surface that protects the wood and provide a level of sheen. Polyurethanes are either oil based or water based. Oil based urethanes are more durable but amber over time. They also tend to have a strong odor when applying and tend to take longer to dry between coats. Water based polyurethane goes on easy with minimal odor and can be recoated a number of times in a single day.

Choosing the Right Paint

When choosing the right paint for your job, keep in mind the following factors.

Latex vs. Oil-Latex paint works well for interior applications, especially in areas where there is little ventilation, because of the minimal amount of odor they give off during application. Clean up with latex paints is very easy, simply wash all brushes, rollers, buckets, and spills with warm, soapy water. Oil Paints are more durable and are great for exterior applications where there is plenty of ventilation due to their strong odor. Mineral spirits must also be used for cleanup.

Interior vs. Exterior—Interior and exterior paints differ in their composition. Each contains additives specifically formulated for their intended use. For example, exterior paints will have additional mildew blockers and fade resistors that allow them to withstand the elements and constant sunlight. Interior paints contain additives that make them more durable for scrubbing and cleaning. For best results, be sure to use the paint that is intended for your project.

Paint Grades — Paint is manufactured to different specifications. In general these grades are value grade, construction grade, and premium grade. When comparing pricing on paints, be sure that you are looking at similar grades of paint. Curtis Lumber only carries top quality paints, so you can be sure you're getting the best paint on the market.

Hiding Ability—This is a term that refers to the opacity of the paint. The greater the paint's hiding ability the better it will cover up problem areas and previously painted colors. While you might think a dark color would have better hiding ability than a lighter color, it isn't always the case. In order to make a dark color, less titanium dioxide (which makes paint white & opaque) can be used, reducing its hiding ability.

Color Choice- There are a number of things to keep in mind when choosing a color. Space can be the most important factor.   Is your room small or large or is the side of the house a long, straight run? Colors interact with each other in various ways so it is also important to consider the color of objects in a room, nearby walls, furniture, and anything else that will be near your painted surface. For example, an off-white wall will appear pink when placed next to a vibrant red rug.

Another factor is the amount of light in a room. Since color is a reflection of certain rays of light, the level of brightness will effect how a color looks. Browns will look much deeper in a darker room than in a bright one. It is important to take the color swatch home and see what it looks like in the actual space where it will go and to consider the type of light you are choosing the color in. If it is an exterior paint, you should choose the color in daylight. While color is a personal selection, be sure to ask your Curtis Lumber paint pro for advice on color pairings to create just the right look and feel.

Curtis Lumber can custom match virtually any color with a small swatch. Be sure to bring in your color choice for an exact match every time.

Sheen—Sheen is the term used to describe a paint's degree of light reflection. In general, the less sheen a paint has, the less stain-resistant it is. Most paints and stains are classified as either Gloss, Semi-Gloss, Satin, Eggshell or Flat.

Gloss is the toughest sheen. It cleans easily and resists scuffs. This makes it a good choice for high traffic or constant use areas and items, like outdoor furniture. For shutters and other trim, gloss paint provides a sleek look. Gloss paint will, however, show imperfections in the surface more than other sheens and will not cover rough spots. Gloss paint is heavily used for industrial applications.

Semi-gloss paints are also durable and easy to clean, but have less shine than gloss. They are the preferred finish for trim, casings, kitchens, and bathrooms.

Satin and Eggshell offer a good combination of easy-clean and moderate sheen. It's a good choice for siding and interior walls that may get fingerprints or other markings on them. Homes with children and pets should consider at least Satin or Eggshell sheen in order to have the ability to clean the surface.

Flat paint is the right choice for ceilings or areas that will not come in contact with traffic. It has excellent hiding ability and can cover surface imperfections.

Choosing the Right Stain

When choosing the right stain for your job, keep in mind the following factors.

Latex vs. Oil- Latex stains, also know as Acrylic, are stains that are water based. These stains clean up easily with warm, soapy water and give off little odor during application. These are an excellent choice in interior applications or where there is little exposure to the elements. Oil stains, also know as Alkyd, contain oil instead of water. Oil based stains are more durable than latex stains and are mainly used in exterior applications. They require mineral spirits for clean up and have a strong odor during application, so be sure to apply in a well ventilated area.

Interior vs. Exterior—Interior and exterior stains differ in their composition. Each contains additives specifically formulated for their intended use. For example, exterior stains will have additional mildew blockers and fade resistors that allow them to withstand the elements and constant sunlight. Exterior decking stains contain scuff resistors that will keep your deck finish from wearing off. For best results, be sure to use the stain that is intended for your project.

Stain Grades— Not all stains are made to the same specifications. Different chemical compositions can affect how stains absorb into the wood and how long they last. When choosing a stain, be sure you are choosing a quality product. Curtis Lumber only carries top quality stains, so you can be sure that you are getting a great product!

Semi Transparent, Semi-Solid, & Solid—Stains come in different opacities. Semi-Transparent stains will allow the grains and textures of the wood or surface to show through, semi solid stains contain more pigment and alkyd for UV resistance and durability, while solid stains will finish to a smoother surface, but yet still show some texture. In general Semi Transparent provides for a casual experience while solid finishes to a cleaner, more formal appearance.

Color Choice— When selecting a color, it is important to remember semi-transparent stains will allow the surface's original wood grain and coloring to come through, while Solid stains are more opaque and cover the majority of the original surface. Because of this, solid stains tend to have a larger range of available colors, while semi-transparent stains are more limited. When choosing a stain color, it is important to not only consider the color of the house, deck or other surface it will be next to, but also the natural surroundings and other homes in the area.

Curtis Lumber can custom match virtually any color with a small swatch. Be sure to bring in your color choice for an exact match every time.

Durability—Consider where you are applying your stain. Depending on the surface and location, your choice of stain should be suited to the application. Siding stains are best used for exterior walls and fences. However, when staining a deck, it is important to make sure the stain is suited for decking. Deck stains have stronger binding agents that hold the stain together and make it more resistant to wear. Your friendly Curtis Lumber salesperson will guide you to the right stain for your project, so you can spend fewer days staining and more time doing what you love.

Surface Preparation

You care about your home's appearance, but you don't want to be a slave to it. Painting and staining do not always have to be annual events.

Most paint and stain problems could have been avoided with proper surface preparation. These problems include uneven paint coating and the longevity of the paint or stain to sticking to the surface. To prevent this from happening to your project, it is important to follow the manufacturer's application instructions for their product.

General Tips:

- The surface to be finished must be dry and not showing signs of rot. If it has recently rained or looks like it may start to rain, avoid painting or staining outdoors.

- The surface must be clean and free of dirt, oils, peeling paint or stain.

- Generally speaking, the temperature should be above 50 degrees. Check the can's label for ideal application temperatures.

- Latex pains can be applied over oil based paints, but for best results oil-based paints shouldn't be applied over latex.

Finishing a New Surface— New surfaces can be finished with either latex or oil based paints or stains. If you are painting or using a solid stain, a high quality primer will give you the right base for smooth and durable painting. For transparent staining, a wood conditioner can be used to ensure even absorption.

Finishing over an Existing Coating— When the surface is already finished, selecting the right paint or stain is important. First, determine what type is on the current surface to be finished. If the surface is finished with a latex or acrylic, it is best to continue to apply latex paint over an old latex surface. Semi gloss and gloss paints must also be dulled by sanding before applying a new top coat to ensure proper paint adhesion.

Primers—Before painting or staining, a good coat of primer is required to achieve the best results. You won't need the most expensive primer for new drywall, but if the surface is wood or has drywall that has been painted a dark color, a high quality primer will give you an even coating of paint. Also, if the surface is dirty, stained by oils, smoke or other substances, some primers will stick better than others to give you a fresh surface ready for painting. Softwoods will require the use of a wood conditioner or primer in order to insure the stain will soak in evenly. Curtis Lumber's Paint Experts can help you select a primer that is best suited for your projects needs.

Sanding— It is important to make sure the surface you are covering is free of imperfections before painting or staining. This is true for wood, drywall joint compound and any other smooth surface with lumps, bumps and the like. Depending on the surface, different types and grits of sand paper are used to smooth out the imperfections. Use coarse sandpaper for sanding off large rough spots and progress to a finer grit until the surface is smooth. After sanding is complete, it is a good idea to dust off the surface. For smaller items and items that require a very smooth surface, such as furniture, use a tack cloth to make sure all of the dust particles are removed.

Patch, Caulk, & Fill Holes— Before you paint or stain, be sure to fix any holes or gaps the may exist. Cracks in drywall can be repaired with drywall tape and spackle, painters caulking can be used to fill gaps left between molding and trim, and large holes can be covered with drywall patches covered with a spackling or joint compound.

Curtis Lumber is the place to start your project off right and painting is no exception. Our paint experts will help you identify the tools and methods to ensure proper surface preparation and superior paint adhesion for years to come.

Application Methods

Choosing a Brush—Paint and stain brushes come with either natural or acrylic bristles. For best results, start with a good quality brush designed for the type of project you are working on. Wide brushes work well for covering large areas but will not allow for a high level of control that a smaller brush provides. Natural bristle brushes work better for oil stains, while acrylic bristles work well with latex paint. Ask your Curtis Lumber paint expert for more details on choosing a brush.

Picking the Right Roller Cover—Most rollers are 3″, 4″, 9″, or 18″ and will require an identical cover. Specialty rollers are available for driveway sealer, narrow spaces, or even textures. The most important attribute of a roller cover is its nap, or thickness. 1/2″ or 3/8″ are common naps and will work for most all purpose applications. For extremely smooth surfaces, a thinner nap, 3/16″ or 1/4″, should be used. If your surface is rough, a thicker nap is useful, such as 3/4″. A good thing to remember is, larger nap rollers pick up more paint that can then fill in rough spots, but may also leave too much paint on the surface.

Should I Spray?—While painting isn't difficult, it can be time consuming. Because of this, there are many time-saving spray application options available. Before you decide to spray, you should determine if your project is a good candidate.

Canned spray paint can be good for irregular shaped items or when you just want to put a finish on something quickly and looks are not a big concern. Power Sprayers allow you to control the width of your spray and pour in stains or standard interior or exterior paints. A good situation for spraying indoors is for a new construction project with no flooring installed. All areas you do not want covered with paint should be masked.   Be careful because the spray will travel, so make sure everything around you is covered. Outdoors be aware of wind and your neighbors' property. As always, follow the paint sprayer and paint manufacturer's instructions and wear the proper safety equipment.

Protecting Areas from Unwanted Painting or Staining
- Use a Drop cloth to cover all floors, furniture or anywhere paint or stain my splatter
- Place blue painter's tape around trim, ceilings and other areas not to be finished
- Use a smaller, angled trim brush around edges.
- Remove Switch plate and outlet covers prior to painting or staining.

Clean Up Tips
- Thoroughly rinse brushes or roller covers with soapy, warm water if it is an Acrylic or Latex and use Mineral Spirits if it is an Alkyd or Oil Based.
- It is a good idea to have plenty of clean rags and either warm soapy water or mineral spirits handy in case of a spill or splatter.
- If you will be applying a second coat of the same paint or stain, you can store your brush or roller in a sealed plastic bag to save from cleaning them each time.

Come to Curtis Lumber for friendly advice and to start your painting project off right!
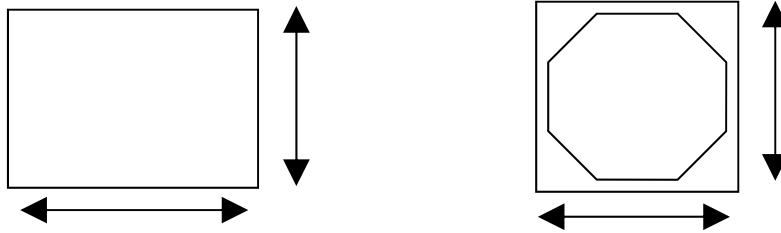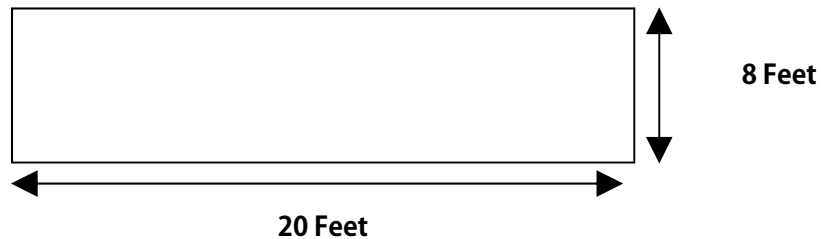
How Much Paint or Stain do I need?

Determining the right amount of Paint or Stain for your project is important. In general it is less expensive to buy a gallon than 2 quarts, so it's better to have enough. Also, a little leftover paint is always good to label and have handy to touch up for years to come.

Measuring is easy, all you need is a tape measure and a calculator.

1. Find the lengths and heights of the surfaces to cover. For irregular areas, fit the area in a rectangle and use its length and height.

2. Multiply the length times the height to get the square footage to be covered.
3. Add all of the rectangles together to get your total square footage to be covered.
4. Read the label on the can to see the maximum coverage and divide your total square footage and round up to the next whole number to find out how many gallons you need.

8 Feet

20 Feet

For Example:

20 feet x 8 feet = 160 square feet
Gallon of Paint covers 100 square feet, so 160/100=1.6 gallons
Rounding up, this wall takes 2 gallons of paint to cover.

If you are not sure how to calculate your paint or stain needs, be sure to stop into your local Curtis Lumber with your dimensions and our Paint Pros will be happy to help you estimate the right amount.

Need more help? Try our handy paint estimator.

Paint & Stain Checklist

Please fill out this planning sheet to the best of your ability in order to help you refine what you might want for your painting or staining project. Our salespeople will walk you through the process in-person, however, this checklist will help you to think about what you might want. The information on this sheet will help our salespeople to get you the right coating for your project. Bring this sheet to a store to share with your salesperson.

Name:_____

Address:_____

City, State, ZIP:_____

Home Phone:_____Work Phone:_____ Cell:_____

Email:_____ Fax:_____

Jobsite Location:_____

About Your Project

How did you hear about Paints & Stains at Curtis Lumber? _____

How many square feet are you trying to cover? _____

Is your project Interior or Exterior? _____

Are you doing the project yourself or working with a contractor? _____

If Contractor, Name: _____Phone: _____

When would you like to begin the project? _____

When was the surface last finished?_____

Will the surface be walked on or frequently touched?_____

What finish is currently on the surface?_____

What will you be finishing over? ☐ Latex / Acrylic   ☐ Oil ☐ Nothing   ☐ Other (Fill In)_____

What type of material is being covered? ☐ Drywall ☐ Wood   ☐ Cement ☐ Other (Fill In)_____

How high are your ceilings? _____ How tall are your walls?_____

Are you painting your ceilings or trim?_____

If indoors, does the room get exposed to a large amount of natural light?_____

**Be sure to bring this completed questionnaire to your initial store visit.
It is not required, but will help us to understand your project.**