



PREP LIKE A PRO CHECKLIST

***Avoid the #1 DIY Painting
Mistake – Poor Prep!***

By Brad Revie – Founder,
Pro Painter6™



**PRO
PAINTER6**
— PROFESSIONAL —
WHERE DIY MEETS PRO

Pro Painter6™ Prep Like a Pro Checklist

Avoid the #1 DIY Painting Mistake — Poor Prep!

By Brad Revie — Founder, Pro Painter6™ | Where DIY Meets Pro!


1. Clear & Protect Your Space

- ✓ Move furniture away from walls (or out of the room if possible).
- ✓ Cover floors with canvas drop cloths (not plastic — it's safer and reusable).
- ✓ Remove wall décor, switch plates, and outlet covers.
- ✓ Tape off baseboards and fixtures if you're keeping them in place.

 **Pro Tip:** Keep a small tote or box labeled “Hardware” for all screws, plates, and fasteners so nothing goes missing during cleanup.

2. Clean Surfaces Before Painting

- ✓ Wipe down walls and trim with warm water and mild detergent.
- ✓ Remove any dust, grease, or fingerprints — especially in kitchens and bathrooms.
- ✓ Let surfaces fully dry before moving to repairs.

 **Pro Tip:** Dirty walls repel paint and cause poor adhesion. A quick cleaning makes your finish coat smoother and longer-lasting.

3. Repair & Patch Imperfections

- ✓ Fill holes, cracks, and dents with spackling compound or Evercoat glazing putty.
- ✓ Once dry, lightly sand the area smooth with 150–220 grit sandpaper.
- ✓ Feather the edges for a seamless blend.
- ✓ Prime patched spots with Zinsser mold-killing primer or Sherwin ProBlock.

 **Pro Tip:** Always spot prime — unprimed patches absorb paint unevenly and show through even the best topcoats.

4. Caulking & Sealing

- ✓ Use DAP AMP Hybrid Caulking for joints, corners, and trim gaps.
- ✓ Run a steady bead, then smooth with a damp finger or tool.
- ✓ Wipe away excess before it skins over.
- ✓ Allow full cure before painting (usually 24 hours).

 **Pro Tip:** Don't over-apply caulk. Thin, consistent lines seal better and avoid cracking under paint.

5. Masking & Taping

- ✓ Use FrogTape Pro Grade Blue for clean edges that won't bleed.
- ✓ Press firmly with a putty knife to seal edges.
- ✓ Mask trim, ceilings, and edges *after* cleaning and caulking.
- ✓ Remove tape immediately after final coat while paint is still tacky.

 **Pro Tip:** The right tape + clean surfaces = razor-sharp lines. Mask once, paint confidently.

6. Tools & Supplies Checklist

Brushes & Rollers

- Wooster Silver Tip 2½" Angle Brush
- Wooster 3/8" & ½" Roller Covers
- Wooster Wide Boy 18" Roller Frame

Prep Tools

- Handy Paint Pail + Liners
- Putty Knife / 5-in-1 Tool

- Sanding Sponge (Fine & Medium Grit)
- Painter's Plastic or Trimaco Canvas Drop Cloth

Clean-Up Tools

- Spin-Out Roller Cleaner
- Mild Detergent & Water
- Microfiber Cloths

💡 Pro Tip: Keep prep tools separate from painting tools — clean prep gear avoids contamination and keeps your finishes flawless.

✅ 7. Ready to Paint Like a Pro?

Once your space is cleaned, patched, caulked, and masked, you're ready for primer and paint.


Follow my next guide — *"Brush & Roller Techniques"* — to get smooth, professional results every time.


Brad's Favorite Pro Tools

 Wooster Silver Tip 2½" Angle Brush — smooth lines & perfect control.

 Wooster Wide Boy 18" Roller Frame — covers fast, cuts time in half.


 Graco Nova 390 Airless Sprayer — powerful yet compact for pros.

 Spin-Out Roller Cleaner — saves time, water, and frustration.

 FrogTape Pro Grade Blue — crisp, clean lines every time.

 *Affiliate tools available at ProPainter6.com/tools*

Pro Painter6™ | Where DIY Meets Pro!

 *Helping homeowners achieve professional results since 1991.*

