

Found on Internet!!!!



## Will we regret painting our home exterior white?

Mallory Stevens | 5 years ago

We purchased this 1975 home and are renovating it completely. Early on we opted to paint the entire exterior white, but we're starting to get nervous. We love the idea of a white house, but worry about it looking dirty. For reference, those windows to the left will be dropped down all the way, so there won't be any wood panelling there, and we know there are some places where the paneling needs to be replaced. All the windows will be new, white frames, and the roof has been replaced (see second image).

Our painter is planning to come on Thursday and we're starting to get cold feet and worrying white will end up looking dingy on our older home - particularly on the wood. Anyone with experience in that regard? We thought about keeping the brick red and just painting the wood but I worry that will leave the home looking top heavy, so I really want to avoid that. We're pretty sold on painting the entire home a consistent color and strategically accenting certain areas with new trim or siding afterwards, but we're wanting to make sure we're not wasting our money by painting it white.

Look how quick the roof get dirty

Basically - is white just going to look dirty in a few months? Is our home just too old to look good painted white? We're in an area with all four seasons and particularly intense winters.



## Comments (20)

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**Mallory Stevens** Original Author

5 years ago

Also - if not white, what color would you do? We're wanting to avoid super dark colors (ideally no black or super dark grey), we wanted white because it feels happy without being juvenile, but most important is that it doesn't feel dirty.

👍 Like | 1 📌 Save



**suezbell**

5 years ago

last modified: 5 years ago

Nice home and yard. I personally prefer the stained wood look but color is a matter of personal preference. If you don't choose all white, a better color could be a muted medium or pastel color, such as a tan (a very pale brown without any pink or yellow hue), which should go really well with a dark roof, even a brown one.

Fully Agree

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Your house doesn't look dirty and the more natural colored wood is well suited for a lot with trees. If, however, you're so tired of the dark that it looks dirty to you-- so much so that you want clean solid white as a change, then it's time to change.

Not sure about your current door color but do note that it doesn't stand out. Just changing your door to a bold color to make it more of a focal point for the front of the house is worth considering before deciding to paint the entire house.

But Villas have Brown roof Brown Brick Brown pavers Brown Mail boxes

A solid white exterior goes well with a black or gray roof -- not so sure it would look that good with a brown roof. Remember, unlike stained wood, anything that is painted will, inevitably, need to be repainted and can begin to look pretty awful as it gets that way, especially if a drastically different color beneath it is becoming visible.

Good Point

A painted deck, walked on, will show dirt much more than a natural wood stained deck so seriously consider not painting either the deck or railing even if you paint the siding.

The downstairs front siding looks different -- smoother -- from the rest of the board siding. Just painting the smoother looking siding and leaving the vertical board-and-bat siding unpainted might be worth considering, especially if you're painting it yourselves and especially if you choose a color that will go well with the stained boards. If you're doing the work, you can paint the house in stages and stop and see what you have before continuing.

You might consider replacing the dark vertical board panel left of the front door with a window / sidelight or, if that's not practical because of what's on the other side, you might consider a totally different siding such as stone or brick and then use the same stone or brick to create a new sidewalk from the door to the road and/or to outline an existing one from door to driveway.

With any color siding, you could still use white for window and door trim (but you might want to keep the fascia a dark color because of the dark brown roof).

If you begin with two different colors -- the painted tan for the smooth siding and the stained wood left on the vertical board-and-bat siding -- and find that having the two different colors isn't appealing, you could then finish painting all the siding the same color, leaving the deck and rails for last.

Agree



**emmarene9**

5 years ago

I'd prefer your house in a taupe or grayish green. Perhaps when I have seen houses like yours they have usually been an earthy color or wood color as yours is now.

Currently Villas have warm earth tones which were obviously PROFESSIONALLY selected By the original Architect

The reality is it is your house, not mine. If you want white then I say go for it. When you first mentioned dirt, I presumed you were in a very dry area. I live in such an area and my house is dusty on the outside. If you are not in an arid area why do you think your house will look dirty? Does your town have that much smog? Perhaps you should drive around your town looking at white houses to see if they look dirty to you.

Like | 3 Save



**wacokid**

5 years ago

My home is white, I do take a sponge and soap and clean it once a year. You notice how dirty it gets after cleaning it.

Not everybody will keep Villas Clean

Like Save



**Jill McK**

5 years ago

I think it's less about it getting dirty and more about if the wood will look good painted white since the wood has a lot of knots.

Very important consideration as lots of wood deterioration which will be seriously amplified with white paint-case on unintended consequence

Like | 1 Save



**Jill McK**

5 years ago

I do like the bone color that someone else suggested. I think the clean look you are going for may be better suited if you replaced some of the wood on the front of your house with flatter pieces. I don't think the wood on the back of the house would bother me as much.



**Kay Addis**

5 years ago

I'm not a designer, but it seems that your house, with its abundance of wood, is meant to blend with the nature around it. I just don't see white fitting with the style of your lovely home. I'd vote for the bone, taupe or grayish green that others have mentioned.

another vote against white-send her a Proxy!!

Like 17 Save



**Kate**

5 years ago

Agree

Just paint the brick a neutral color like some suggested, not white. Refresh the wood and perhaps a slightly lighter color stain.

Like Save



**Kate**

5 years ago

Are you planning on leaving the brick it's natural reddish brown shown in the picture? I am really biased on making sure the changes you make in and out of your home have a relationship to the architectural style of the structure. So while white is great on a Cape Cod cottage or traditional colonial, I am not sure that painting your home white is going to end up with a result that will please you. Remember the old rule of thumb on exteriors that unless your home is an elaborate victorian you want to stick to three colors and your roof counts as one. You have natural brick and cedar shake roof (or so it appears). I agree with others on keeping an earth tone. I would opt for a sage green. It will achieve the goal of lightening things up while still blending in to the beautiful surroundings of your property.

Like 12 Save



**K Laurence**

5 years ago

I love white houses but I don't think it's suitable for yours. I agree that a sage green, taupe or other earthtone would look much better.

Like Save



**grapefruit1\_ar**

5 years ago

I agree with Kate. I was thinking that sage green would be nice. Keep the brick as is. I am afraid that white will be much too stark.

Like | 2 Save



**apple\_pie\_order**

5 years ago

Sage green with white windows. Cleaning the white window sills every few months is enough work, no need to add cleaning an entire white house to your to-do list.



Ramona

5 years ago

last modified: 5 years ago

cream if you must, but the blues and greys posted above with white trim get my vote.

stark white will not look good on your sort of home imho.

I would not like the sage green with the brick personally. I've seen brick houses with sage green trim which I liked, but your brick is extensive, so the effect will be more half and half.

White trim with cream/bone is just about my favorite combo, but not for this house.

A nice color on the front door will make your home more welcoming.

If you really want to lighten it up maybe, maybe: cream on brick, the grey blues above and white trim, leaving some brown siding?

don't think one consistent color is going to do the job for your home. I love painted brick, but it will wear off, so you have to think of what it will look like in those medium stages when brick is shedding the paint. Maybe they have some new paints/treatments which keep paint on brick.

I agree that the brown on brown is too much on the home as it is and wonder why more readers do not notice that you have already posted the new roof which is a great grey color. This is one reason the blue grey will look good, even if you leave some unpainted brown siding.

Take an updated picture with the new roof and get thee hence to a Sherman Williams store where they can show you your house in any color you choose.



Kay Addis

5 years ago

Like the sage green with white windows!

Like | 1 Save



chloebud

5 years ago

One of the warm neutrals Irene posted would work nicely. I also agree with the sage green suggestion. **Like used at Pelican Bay Villas**



chloebud

5 years ago

One of the warm neutrals Irene posted would work nicely. I also agree with the sage green suggestion.

Like Save



jbtanyderi

5 years ago

**WHITE IS SO WRONG** for the architecture of that house. Painting brick creates more upkeep.

Like | 1 Save



shopalot

3 years ago

**I think it would look great white.** I'd use black accents — it'll look bigger and modern

**of course not every one agrees**

Like Save