

NEW BRUNSWICK PAINTING

Exterior Painting

Exterior house painting, siding, trim, fascia, soffit,
and seasonal timing for NB's Maritime climate

27 Expert Answers from Paint IQ

newbrunswickpainting.com/construction-brain

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How do I protect shrubs and landscaping around my NB home from overspray and paint drips during an exterior painting project?

Protecting your landscaping is crucial during exterior painting — paint overspray and drips can permanently damage or kill plants, and cleanup is often impossible once paint has dried on foliage.

Proper protection starts with understanding that even careful brush and roller work creates some overspray, and spray application (which many NB painting contractors use for efficiency on large exteriors) can drift much further than expected, especially with the variable winds common along our coast and river valleys.

Pre-Painting Plant Protection is your first line of defense. For shrubs within 3-4 feet of painted surfaces, use lightweight plastic sheeting or canvas drop cloths secured with stakes or weights — never tie plastic directly around plant stems as this can damage bark and restrict airflow. For delicate plants like rhododendrons, azaleas, and Japanese maples (popular in NB landscaping), create a frame with stakes and drape the covering over it to avoid direct contact with leaves. Remove coverings daily if possible to prevent heat buildup and moisture problems, especially during humid NB summers.

Ground Protection around your foundation plantings should extend at least 6 feet from the house wall. Heavy canvas or plastic drop cloths work well, but avoid leaving plastic on grass for more than 2-3 days during growing season as it will kill the turf underneath. For established flower beds and mulched areas, canvas drop cloths are preferable as they breathe and won't create the greenhouse effect that plastic can cause in our humid Maritime climate.

Timing Your Project around your landscaping makes a significant difference. Late fall (October) exterior painting in NB works well because most perennials have died back, deciduous shrubs have dropped their leaves, and you're mainly protecting woody stems and evergreens. Spring painting (May-June) requires more extensive protection as new growth is tender and easily damaged. Avoid painting during peak growing season (July-August) when possible, as plants are most vulnerable to chemical damage and heat stress.

Special Considerations for NB Plants include protecting salt-sensitive species if you're using marine-grade paints near the coast. Evergreens like yews, junipers, and spruce (common foundation plantings in NB) need careful protection as paint on needles is nearly impossible to remove and can block photosynthesis. For mature trees close to the house, protect the trunk with cardboard or plastic wrap, but remove it immediately after painting to prevent moisture buildup that encourages bark problems.

Professional vs DIY Protection varies significantly. If you're hiring a painting contractor, verify that landscaping protection is included in their quote — reputable NB painters will automatically protect plants and include cleanup in

their pricing. However, you may want to handle protection of particularly valuable or delicate specimens yourself, as you know your plants better than the painting crew. For DIY exterior painting projects, budget extra time for thorough plant protection — rushing this step to start painting often leads to expensive plant replacement costs that far exceed the time saved.

When to Hire a Pro becomes essential for complex landscaping situations — homes with extensive foundation plantings, mature specimen trees close to walls, or valuable landscaping that would be costly to replace. Professional painters have experience working around plants and carry insurance that may cover accidental damage, though prevention is always preferable to compensation.

Need help finding a professional painter experienced with protecting NB landscaping? New Brunswick Painting can match you with contractors who understand the importance of preserving your outdoor investment while transforming your home's exterior.

Q2

How do I paint the exterior wood trim and window casings on a Bathurst home that gets heavy salt air exposure from Chaleur Bay?

Exterior wood trim in Bathurst's salt air environment requires marine-grade preparation and paint systems designed to handle both freeze-thaw cycles and salt corrosion. The combination of salt spray from Chaleur Bay and NB's harsh winters creates one of the most challenging painting environments in the province.

Surface Preparation is Critical

Start by thoroughly cleaning all trim with a TSP solution to remove salt deposits, dirt, and any mildew that thrives in the humid coastal environment. Scrape all loose or peeling paint down to solid, well-adhered material. Sand glossy surfaces with 120-grit sandpaper to provide tooth for the new coating. Pay special attention to the bottom edges of window sills and horizontal trim pieces where salt water tends to pool and cause the most damage.

For bare wood exposure, use a moisture meter to ensure wood moisture content is below 15% before painting. Bathurst's coastal humidity can keep wood damp longer than inland areas, so allow extra drying time after cleaning. Fill nail holes and gaps with a high-quality exterior wood filler, and caulk all joints between trim pieces and siding with a paintable, flexible acrylic caulk that won't crack under freeze-thaw.

Prime with a Marine-Grade System

Use an oil-based or high-quality acrylic primer specifically rated for marine environments. Zinsser Cover Stain or Benjamin Moore Fresh Start High-Hiding All Purpose Primer are excellent choices that provide superior adhesion and moisture resistance. Apply primer to all bare wood, filled areas, and any spots where you've sanded down to previous coatings. Don't skip this step — salt air accelerates paint failure when moisture penetrates to the wood substrate.

Choose Salt-Resistant Topcoats

For the finish coats, select a 100% acrylic latex paint with excellent salt resistance and flexibility. Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior or Sherwin-Williams Duration Exterior are premium options that perform well in coastal NB conditions. These paints maintain flexibility through freeze-thaw cycles while resisting salt corrosion and UV degradation. Apply two full coats, allowing complete drying between coats — coastal humidity can extend drying times to 4-6 hours between coats.

Timing and Maintenance

In Bathurst, plan exterior trim painting for late June through early September when humidity is most manageable and you have the longest stretch of stable weather. Avoid painting within 24 hours of fog or heavy dew, which is common along Chaleur Bay. The salt air environment means your trim will need repainting every 4-5 years instead of the typical 6-8 years for inland locations. Annual washing with fresh water in spring helps remove salt buildup and extend paint life.

When to Hire a Professional

For two-storey homes or complex trim work around dormers and bay windows, hire a professional painter experienced with coastal conditions. They'll have the scaffolding and spray equipment to achieve even coverage on detailed trim work, and they understand the critical importance of proper prep and marine-grade materials in salt air environments.

Need help finding a painting professional experienced with coastal conditions? New Brunswick Painting can match you with contractors familiar with Bathurst's challenging marine environment.

Q3

How do I paint a two-tone exterior with contrasting body and trim colours on my Dieppe home without the colours clashing?

Creating a successful two-tone exterior requires choosing colours that complement rather than compete, and executing clean, precise lines between the body and trim colours. The key is selecting colours from the same family or using proven colour relationships, then focusing on meticulous prep work and cutting techniques for professional-looking results.

Choosing Colours That Work Together

Start with your home's fixed elements — roof colour, stone or brick accents, and the surrounding landscape. In Dieppe's established neighbourhoods, you'll see many successful two-tone combinations: classic white or cream trim with navy, forest green, or charcoal body colours; warm grey bodies with crisp white trim; or sage green siding with darker green or brown trim. The most foolproof approach is to choose colours that are either analogous (next to each other on the colour wheel) or have a clear light-dark contrast.

Avoid high-contrast complementary colours (like red and green) unless one is very muted. Instead, consider these proven combinations: a medium blue-grey body with white trim, warm beige siding with chocolate brown trim, or a soft yellow body with forest green accents. Many paint manufacturers offer curated exterior colour palettes specifically designed to work together — Benjamin Moore's Historical Collection and Sherwin-Williams' Duration Exterior collections include several two-tone schemes that work beautifully on Maritime homes.

Planning Your Colour Placement

The general rule is to use the lighter colour on trim, doors, window frames, and architectural details, with the darker colour on the main siding. This creates definition and highlights your home's architectural features. However, some Dieppe homes look stunning with dark trim against lighter siding — particularly on Cape Cod or Colonial styles where dark shutters and trim create classic contrast.

Consider your home's proportions when planning colour placement. If your house has extensive trim work, decorative brackets, or multiple gables, a subtle colour difference (like two shades of the same colour) often works better than high contrast. For simpler ranch or contemporary styles, bolder contrast can add visual interest without overwhelming the design.

Execution for Clean Lines

The difference between amateur and professional-looking two-tone work lies in the precision of your cut lines. Start by painting the larger surface (usually the siding) first, slightly overlapping onto trim areas. Once this base coat is completely dry — typically 24-48 hours in Dieppe's humid summer conditions — carefully tape the edges using high-quality painter's tape designed for exterior use.

For the sharpest lines, use the "paint the tape edge" technique: after applying tape, brush a thin coat of the base colour along the tape edge, then immediately apply your trim colour. This seals the tape edge and prevents the trim

colour from bleeding under. Remove the tape while the final coat is still slightly wet for the cleanest edge.

New Brunswick Climate Considerations

Plan your two-tone exterior for late spring through early fall when you can complete the entire project within NB's exterior painting season. Starting with different base colours means you can't easily touch up or blend if weather interrupts your work. The high humidity common in Dieppe during summer months means allowing extra drying time between coats and colour changes — rushing this process leads to poor adhesion and visible lap marks where colours meet.

When to Hire a Professional

While single-storey homes can be good DIY projects for experienced painters, two-tone exteriors require exceptional cutting skills and often scaffolding for precise work at height. Professional painters have spray equipment that can create perfectly even base coats and steady hands for precise brush work on trim details. For a two-storey Dieppe home or complex architectural details, the investment in professional application ensures your colour scheme looks intentional rather than amateur.

Need help finding a professional painter experienced with two-tone exteriors? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local contractors who specialize in detailed exterior colour work.

What exterior paint colour schemes are most popular for heritage Victorian homes in Saint John's uptown district in 2026?

The most popular exterior paint schemes for heritage Victorian homes in Saint John's uptown district blend historical authenticity with contemporary sophistication, featuring deep jewel tones, classic neutrals with bold accent colours, and carefully researched period-appropriate palettes.

Heritage Victorian homes in Saint John's Trinity Royal and Germain Street areas are seeing a renaissance in authentic colour schemes that honour the architectural period while meeting modern aesthetic preferences. The most sought-after palettes include **deep forest greens with cream trim and burgundy accents, charcoal grey bodies with crisp white trim and navy blue doors**, and **warm sage green with ivory trim and deep teal shutters**. These schemes respect the Victorian era's love of rich, complex colours while providing the sophisticated look today's homeowners desire.

Period-appropriate base colours dominating 2026 include Benjamin Moore's "Hunter Green" and "Wrought Iron," Sherwin-Williams' "Evergreens" and "Naval," and historically accurate colours like deep burgundy, warm ochre, and rich brown. Victorian homes were originally painted in earth tones and jewel colours because these pigments were readily available and showed less dirt from coal soot. Modern interpretations of these colours work beautifully on Saint John's clapboard and shingle-style Victorians.

Trim and accent strategies are crucial for Victorian authenticity. The most popular approach uses three colours: a dominant body colour, contrasting trim (usually lighter), and a bold accent colour for doors, shutters, or decorative brackets. Classic combinations include cream or white trim against darker bodies, with front doors in deep red, forest green, or navy blue. Window sashes often receive special treatment in a third colour to highlight the ornate Victorian window details common in uptown Saint John homes.

Saint John's heritage district considerations add complexity to colour selection. While most exterior painting doesn't require permits, some properties in the Trinity Royal Heritage Conservation Area may need Heritage Development Officer approval for dramatic colour changes. The heritage board generally favours historically appropriate palettes over modern trending colours. Before committing to a bold new scheme, check with Saint John's Planning Department if your Victorian is designated heritage property.

Maritime climate factors significantly influence colour longevity in Saint John's uptown district. The proximity to the Bay of Fundy means salt air exposure, high humidity, and frequent fog. Darker colours fade faster under UV exposure but hide dirt and mildew better than light colours. **Premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paints** in these heritage colours typically cost \$55-80 per gallon but provide the durability needed for Saint John's harsh coastal conditions. Benjamin Moore's Aura Exterior and Sherwin-Williams' Duration are popular choices among local

painting contractors for their fade resistance and mildew protection.

Professional colour consultation is increasingly popular for Victorian restoration projects. Many Saint John homeowners invest \$300-600 in professional colour design services to ensure historical accuracy while achieving a fresh, updated look. The investment pays off in both curb appeal and property value for these distinctive heritage homes.

Need help finding a professional painter experienced with heritage Victorian colour schemes? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local contractors who specialize in historical restoration projects in Saint John's uptown district.

Q5

What is elastomeric exterior paint and is it a good choice for older masonry or stucco walls on New Brunswick homes?

Elastomeric paint is a thick, rubber-like exterior coating that stretches and contracts with building movement, making it an excellent choice for older masonry and stucco walls in New Brunswick's harsh freeze-thaw climate. This specialized paint can bridge hairline cracks and provides superior waterproofing compared to standard exterior paints.

What Makes Elastomeric Paint Different

Elastomeric coatings are much thicker than regular paint — typically applied at 10-20 mils thick compared to 2-4 mils for standard exterior paint. They contain high levels of acrylic resins that create a flexible, rubber-like membrane once cured. This flexibility allows the coating to stretch up to 300-500% without cracking, which is crucial for masonry and stucco that experiences significant thermal expansion and contraction during New Brunswick's temperature swings from -30°C winters to +30°C summers.

The thick application also provides excellent waterproofing. While regular paint allows some moisture penetration, properly applied elastomeric paint creates a nearly impermeable barrier that prevents water from entering the substrate. This is particularly valuable for older masonry homes in Saint John, Fredericton, and Moncton where the original mortar joints may be deteriorating and allowing moisture entry.

Why It Works Well for NB's Older Homes

New Brunswick has thousands of older brick, stone, and stucco homes built between 1900-1960, particularly in the historic areas of Saint John's uptown, Fredericton's downtown core, and older Moncton neighbourhoods. These

buildings commonly develop hairline cracks in stucco or mortar joints due to settling, freeze-thaw cycles, and normal aging. Traditional paint simply bridges over these cracks temporarily — when the building moves, the paint cracks and water enters.

Elastomeric paint moves with the building. When a hairline crack opens during winter contraction, the elastomeric coating stretches across the gap. When the building expands in summer heat, the coating compresses back. This flexibility prevents the coating from failing and maintains the waterproof seal year-round.

The Maritime climate's high humidity and frequent rain make waterproofing especially critical. Older masonry that allows water penetration can suffer rapid deterioration during freeze-thaw cycles — water enters, freezes, expands, and spalls off pieces of brick or stone. Elastomeric paint's superior moisture barrier helps prevent this damage.

Application Considerations for NB

Elastomeric paint requires careful surface preparation and proper application timing. The substrate must be completely clean and dry — any loose mortar, efflorescence (white salt deposits), or peeling paint must be removed. Power washing followed by at least 48 hours of dry weather is typically necessary before application.

Temperature and humidity requirements are stricter than regular paint. Most elastomeric coatings need temperatures between 10-30°C and relative humidity below 70% during application and initial cure. In New Brunswick's humid summers, this often means starting early morning and stopping by mid-afternoon. The thick application also means longer drying times — plan for 4-6 hours between coats in ideal conditions, longer in high humidity.

Cost and Longevity

Elastomeric paint costs significantly more than standard exterior paint — expect \$70-120 per gallon compared to \$55-80 for premium acrylic latex. However, the coverage rate is different due to the thick application. One gallon typically covers 100-150 square feet (compared to 350-400 sq ft for regular paint), so material costs per square foot are roughly 3-4 times higher.

The payoff comes in longevity and performance. A quality elastomeric coating should last 10-15 years on masonry in New Brunswick's climate, compared to 5-8 years for standard exterior paint. The superior waterproofing also protects the underlying masonry from expensive freeze-thaw damage.

When to Hire a Professional

While DIY application is possible on single-storey buildings, elastomeric paint's thick consistency and specific application requirements make professional application advisable for most projects. The paint must be applied evenly at the correct thickness — too thin and you lose the flexibility benefits, too thick and it may not cure properly. Professional painters have spray equipment designed for heavy-bodied coatings and experience achieving the

proper mil thickness.

For older masonry homes with significant height or complex architectural details, professional application is strongly recommended. The investment in proper application pays dividends in coating performance and building protection.

Need help finding a professional painter experienced with elastomeric coatings? New Brunswick Painting can match you with contractors familiar with masonry restoration and specialty coatings for your heritage home project.

Q6

Can I paint the exterior of my New Brunswick home in cold weather using a low-temperature latex paint rated for applications below 5 degrees Celsius?

While some specialty low-temperature latex paints are rated for application down to 2-5°C, painting exteriors in cold weather in New Brunswick is still risky and not recommended for optimal results.

Even with cold-weather paints, several factors make winter exterior painting problematic in NB's Maritime climate. These specialty paints may allow application at lower temperatures, but they don't solve the fundamental issues of **moisture, freeze-thaw cycles, and curing problems** that plague cold-weather painting in our region.

Moisture is the biggest enemy of cold-weather exterior painting in New Brunswick. Winter humidity, frost, and ice create surface moisture that prevents proper paint adhesion regardless of the paint's temperature rating. Wood siding and trim often have moisture content above 15% in winter due to snow, ice, and freeze-thaw cycles. Painting over damp surfaces leads to peeling within months, even with premium paint. Additionally, overnight temperatures in NB regularly drop well below even the most aggressive low-temperature paint ratings — when fresh paint freezes before it cures, it becomes brittle and fails quickly.

Curing vs. drying presents another challenge. While low-temperature paints may form a surface skin in cold conditions, they cure extremely slowly in winter temperatures. Full cure can take weeks instead of days, leaving the paint vulnerable to damage from wind, precipitation, and temperature fluctuations. NB's frequent winter storms and freeze-thaw cycles can destroy slowly-curing paint before it reaches full hardness and flexibility.

The practical reality is that NB's reliable exterior painting season runs from mid-May through mid-October for good reason. Even if you can apply low-temperature paint in December, the results won't match the durability and appearance of paint applied in proper conditions. Professional painters in New Brunswick avoid cold-weather exterior work because warranty claims skyrocket when paint is applied outside the recommended temperature and moisture ranges.

If you absolutely must paint in cold weather due to emergency repairs or urgent maintenance, limit the work to small, protected areas like a single door or small section of trim. Choose a day with temperatures above 5°C, no wind, low humidity, and no precipitation forecast for 48 hours. Ensure the surface is completely dry and warm to the touch. Even then, expect shorter paint life and potential touch-up needs.

For best results, wait for spring. Use the winter months to plan your project, get quotes from contractors, and order materials. The money saved by waiting for proper conditions far outweighs any perceived time savings from cold-weather painting.

Need help finding a professional painter for spring exterior work? New Brunswick Painting can match you with experienced contractors who understand our Maritime climate and will schedule your project for optimal weather conditions.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Expressions Painting
- Gionetterenovations
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- M And M Painting
- Worry No More Handyman Services

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How does the short Maritime painting season in New Brunswick affect how far in advance I should book an exterior painter?

Book your exterior painter 6-8 weeks in advance for NB's short May-October painting season. The compressed Maritime painting window creates high demand during peak months, and quality contractors often fill their schedules by early spring.

New Brunswick's exterior painting season is roughly 5 months compared to 7-8 months in milder climates, which creates a scheduling bottleneck. **Most professional painters book 60-80% of their exterior work between February and April** for execution during the prime May-September window. By the time homeowners realize it's "painting weather" in late May, the best contractors are already booked solid through August.

Peak booking periods vary by project timing. For spring work (mid-May through June), book by late February or March. Summer projects (July-August) should be booked by April. Fall painting (September-early October) offers more flexibility since many homeowners don't think about painting as temperatures cool, but you'll still want to book by July to secure your preferred contractor.

The **quality vs. availability trade-off** becomes stark in NB's compressed season. Established painting contractors with good reputations, proper insurance, and quality equipment book earliest. Contractors still available for immediate booking in June or July may be newer to the business, have capacity issues, or charge premium rates for rush scheduling. This doesn't mean they're bad painters, but it does mean less choice and potentially higher costs.

Weather delays compound the scheduling pressure. A week of rain in June can push every exterior project back, creating a domino effect through the season. Professional painters build buffer time into their schedules, but consecutive weather delays can still push your project from July into August or September. Booking early gives you priority when rescheduling becomes necessary.

Consider off-peak timing for better availability and pricing. Late May and early September often offer the best combination of good weather and contractor availability. Many homeowners focus on summer months, leaving shoulder seasons less competitive. September can be excellent for exterior painting in NB - lower humidity, fewer insects, and moderate temperatures - but watch for early frost warnings in northern areas like Bathurst and Edmundston.

For large projects (full house exterior, multiple buildings), book even earlier - 10-12 weeks in advance. These projects require crew scheduling, material ordering, and potentially scaffolding rental, all of which need coordination during the busy season.

Need help finding a professional painter? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local contractors who understand Maritime scheduling challenges and can provide realistic timelines for your exterior project.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

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- Worry No More Handyman Services
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- FRS Flooring Solutions
- Thirty Four Renovations

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Q8

What is the best time of year to paint a house exterior in New Brunswick considering weather?

The best time to paint a house exterior in New Brunswick is mid-June through early September — the heart of summer — when daytime temperatures are reliably above 15°C, overnight lows stay above 10°C, humidity is at its seasonal low, and you have the longest daylight hours to work with. That said, the full exterior painting window runs from mid-May through mid-October if you're willing to watch the forecast carefully.

Temperature is the hard constraint. Most exterior latex paints require a minimum application temperature of 10°C (50°F), with an ideal range of 15–25°C (60–77°F). More importantly, the surface you're painting — not just the air — needs to stay above that minimum for at least 24–48 hours after application while the paint cures and crosslinks. In New Brunswick, where October nights can drop to 2–5°C even when daytime highs are pleasant, early September is the practical cutoff for most exterior work north of Moncton. Painters in Saint John, Shediac, and the warmer coastal areas can sometimes push into the first two weeks of October.

Spring (May–early June) is productive but risky. The days are getting longer and temperatures are rising, but spring in NB brings heavy rainfall, snowmelt, and most importantly, moisture-saturated wood. Cedar shingles, clapboard siding, and wood trim absorb enormous amounts of water over the winter. That moisture needs to escape before you paint — wood moisture content must be below 15% for exterior paint to adhere properly, and in May, freshly dried wood from a wet NB winter may still be reading 20–25% with a moisture meter. Painting over wet

wood traps moisture beneath the film, and when summer heat drives it out, your new paint blisters and peels within months. If you can wait until early June, the wood has had time to dry out through May's longer days.

Late summer (August–early September) is arguably the best window. Humidity in NB drops from its July peak, temperatures are ideal, the days are long, and there's less chance of sudden rain than in early summer. The paint cures quickly and fully before the cold sets in. Many experienced painters in Fredericton and Moncton deliberately schedule their largest exterior projects for this period.

Practical weather watching tips for NB exterior painting:

Check the 5-day forecast before starting, not just the day's weather. You need at least 48 hours of dry weather — ideally 72 — after applying exterior paint. NB's Maritime weather can swing quickly, and a forecast that looks clear on Tuesday can bring rain by Friday.

Don't paint in direct hot sun on south or west-facing walls in mid-afternoon. When surface temperatures exceed 30–35°C (86–95°F), paint dries too quickly at the surface before adhering underneath, leading to lap marks and poor film formation. Paint these walls in the morning or evening shade.

Avoid painting when morning dew is still on the surface. Wait until the dew has fully evaporated, typically 9–10 AM on a sunny day.

For a full house exterior project in NB costing \$4,000–12,000 depending on size, the timing investment is just as important as the paint quality. A professional painter who schedules around NB's weather patterns will deliver a job that lasts 8–12 years; one who rushes the schedule to meet a tight deadline may give you a result that starts peeling within 3–4 years.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

- Expressions Painting
- Worry No More Handyman Services
- Gionetterenovations
- M And M Painting
- Loves Painting Ltd.

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How often should I repaint the exterior of my home in New Brunswick's Maritime climate?

In New Brunswick's Maritime climate, most homes need exterior repainting every 7–10 years for wood siding and trim, though coastal properties near the Bay of Fundy, Shediac, or the Northumberland Strait may need repainting every 5–7 years due to salt air exposure. The quality of the last paint job, the paint products used, the wood species and condition, and how well the surface was prepared last time all have more impact on longevity than any single factor.

NB's climate is genuinely hard on exterior paint. The combination of 100+ freeze-thaw cycles per year, significant spring and fall rainfall, high summer humidity averaging 65–85%, and salt-laden coastal air creates a punishing environment. Paint that might last 12–15 years in a dry inland Canadian climate will last 7–10 years in New Brunswick under the best conditions. This isn't a knock on the paint or the painters — it's just the reality of Maritime weather, and it's why surface prep and paint quality are non-negotiable here.

Watch for these signs that it's time to repaint — don't wait until you can see bare wood:

Chalking — run your hand along the siding and if you get a powdery white residue on your palm, the paint binder has broken down from UV exposure. The surface looks dull and flat. This is normal wear and the paint is still protecting the wood, but it's signalling that the protective film is thinning. Clean and repaint within 1–2 years.

Cracking and checking — fine hairline cracks ("checking") in the paint film are usually a sign of an aged oil-based paint or a paint film that's lost flexibility from years of expansion and contraction. Once cracking starts, water gets in, and from there freeze-thaw cycles will drive the cracks wider quickly. Don't wait.

Peeling and blistering — active peeling means moisture is beneath the paint film, either from water entry through failed caulk, from the wood drying out in spring, or from painting over wet wood the last time. Address the moisture source and repaint.

Fading and colour change — south- and west-facing walls in NB take the most UV. If the colour has faded visibly or looks blotchy, the topcoat has broken down. Functionally the paint may still be sealing, but you've lost a substantial portion of the protective film's thickness.

For cost planning, a full exterior repaint on a bungalow in Fredericton or Moncton runs \$4,000–7,000, and a two-storey home \$6,000–12,000. Spreading that over 8 years works out to \$500–1,500 per year — far less than the cost of replacing rotted siding or window trim that was left unprotected. Think of exterior repainting as scheduled maintenance, not a cosmetic upgrade.

To get the most years between paint jobs: use 100% acrylic latex exterior paint (\$55–80/gallon for premium products), make sure all caulking around windows, doors, and trim is in good condition before repainting, address any rotted or damaged wood before the new coat goes on, and clean the exterior thoroughly (power washing at moderate pressure) before the painters start. A well-prepared surface with premium paint in NB's climate should reliably reach 10 years before needing attention. Skimping on prep or paint quality will cut that to 4–6 years.

Looking for experienced contractors? The New Brunswick Construction Network connects homeowners with qualified professionals:

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- Worry No More Handyman Services
- Thirty Four Renovations
- moose luxury painting
- Loves Painting Ltd.

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How do I paint vinyl siding on my New Brunswick home or should I avoid it?

You can successfully paint vinyl siding in New Brunswick, and in many cases it's an excellent alternative to replacement — but only if you choose a paint formulated specifically for vinyl, avoid going more than 1–2 shades darker than the original colour, and do thorough prep work first. Painting vinyl siding the wrong way — wrong paint, wrong colour, wrong prep — leads to buckling, peeling, and fading within a couple of years in NB's climate.

The critical rule with vinyl siding is colour selection. Vinyl expands and contracts with temperature — in a New Brunswick summer, dark-coloured siding sitting in direct sun can reach 60–70°C (140–160°F) surface temperature, far beyond what the vinyl was manufactured to handle. Original vinyl siding colours are deliberately light or medium because the manufacturer calibrated the material thickness and formulation for that heat load. Paint the siding a significantly darker colour, and the vinyl absorbs more heat, expands beyond its design limits, and warps or buckles — a problem that can't be undone without replacement. A good rule of thumb: stay within 2 LRV (Light Reflectance Value) points of the original colour, or stick to lighter, brighter shades rather than deep navy, charcoal, or black.

Prep is everything with vinyl. Vinyl is inherently non-porous and often has a chalky oxidized residue on older siding from UV degradation. Paint won't stick to either surface without proper cleaning. Wash the siding thoroughly with a TSP substitute or a vinyl-specific cleaner, scrub with a soft brush to remove chalking and mildew (common on north-facing vinyl in NB's damp Maritime climate), and rinse completely. Let it dry fully before painting — a full 24–48 hours of dry weather in NB summer conditions. Do not use a high-pressure power washer on vinyl; it can force water under panels and damage the underlying structure.

You do not typically need a primer on clean, well-prepped vinyl siding if you're using a vinyl-specific paint or a 100% acrylic exterior paint labeled for use on vinyl. However, if the siding is heavily chalked or has any areas of delaminating or flaking previous paint, a light coat of bonding primer (\$40–60/gallon) over those areas improves adhesion significantly.

Paint selection for vinyl in NB: Choose a 100% acrylic latex exterior paint formulated for use on vinyl and masonry. Sherwin-Williams VinylSafe technology (available in Duration, Emerald, and SuperPaint lines) and Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior are both excellent options and are available in NB at \$55–80/gallon. These formulations are flexible enough to handle vinyl's expansion and contraction through NB's extreme temperature swings, from -25°C in a Moncton January to +30°C in an August heat wave.

For a full house exterior painting on vinyl siding, expect costs in the same range as wood siding: \$4,000–7,000 for a bungalow and \$6,000–12,000 for a two-storey home in NB. The labour is somewhat faster than painting wood because there's no sanding or priming involved when the surface is properly prepped, but the cleaning stage takes

longer.

Hire a professional for two-storey vinyl siding painting — the ladder and scaffolding requirements are identical to wood siding, and achieving even coverage on vinyl at height without drips or roller lines requires experience. A well-executed vinyl repaint in NB can last 10–15 years with premium paint, making it far more economical than vinyl siding replacement at \$8,000–20,000 for a typical NB home.

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Q11

What preparation is needed for painting aluminum siding on a home in Bathurst NB?

Painting aluminum siding in Bathurst requires more preparation than most other exterior surfaces — specifically thorough cleaning, sanding or deglossing the oxidized and chalky surface, spot-priming any bare metal or corrosion, and applying a bonding primer before your topcoat. Skip any one of these steps and the paint will peel off within a season, particularly in Bathurst's climate which combines NB's standard freeze-thaw cycles with proximity to Chaleur Bay and the associated salt-laden air from the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Aluminum siding that's more than 10–15 years old will have a layer of oxidation and chalk on the surface — the original paint has broken down from UV and weathering, leaving a chalky, powdery residue. This layer is the enemy of new paint adhesion. Run your hand along the siding: a heavy white residue means significant oxidation that needs to be removed or etched before any new coating goes on. Start with a thorough wash using a TSP (trisodium phosphate) solution or a dedicated aluminum-specific cleaner mixed with water, applied with a scrub brush or soft bristle brush, then rinsed completely. This removes the chalk, dirt, mildew, and oxidation that prevents adhesion. In Bathurst's coastal proximity, mildew growth on aluminum siding — especially on north and east-facing walls — is

common. Add a mildewcide to the cleaning solution and scrub all affected areas thoroughly. Don't just rinse mildew off; it needs to be killed or it will grow right through the new paint.

After cleaning, the aluminum surface still needs mechanical or chemical etching to give the new paint a profile to grip. Options:

Light sanding with 80-grit sandpaper scuffs the surface and removes any remaining chalk. Work in the direction of the siding profile. This is the most reliable method but the most labour-intensive for a full house.

Liquid deglosser/etcher applied with a rag or brush after cleaning chemically etches the surface without sanding. Products like Wilbond or Bondex are available at NB hardware stores. Follow manufacturer contact time directions carefully.

After cleaning and etching, spot-prime any areas of bare metal, rust, or corrosion with a rust-inhibiting metal primer (\$40–60/gallon). Aluminum itself doesn't rust, but Bathurst homes with older siding often have cut edges, nail holes, or areas where the factory coating is completely gone — these areas oxidize quickly and must be primed before topcoat.

Apply a full coat of acrylic bonding primer over the entire surface before your topcoat. This is the step that most separates a lasting paint job from a failing one on aluminum. A quality exterior bonding primer like Benjamin Moore Fresh Start or Zinsser Bulls Eye 1-2-3 (\$40–55/gallon) gives the acrylic topcoat a unified, gripping base across the whole surface.

For the topcoat, use a premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint in a satin or low-sheen finish at \$55–80/gallon. Two full coats over the primed surface. The same colour-darkening caution that applies to vinyl siding applies to aluminum: avoid going dramatically darker than the original colour, as darker colours absorb more heat and can accelerate thermal expansion stress at seams and fasteners.

For a Bathurst bungalow, a professional exterior repaint including full prep, prime, and two topcoats will typically run \$4,000–7,000. Given the prep requirements for aluminum, this project leans toward hiring a professional — the prep steps have to be done in the right sequence with the right products, and cutting corners on aluminum almost always results in premature failure.

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Q12

What paint should I use on exterior concrete foundation walls in a Fredericton home?

For exterior concrete foundation walls in Fredericton, use a masonry-specific elastomeric or 100% acrylic masonry paint rated for below-grade and freeze-thaw conditions — NOT standard exterior house paint, which will peel off concrete within one or two winters. The right product choice and thorough surface prep are what separate a paint job that lasts 5–10 years from one that bubbles and flakes off by spring.

Concrete foundation walls present a unique combination of challenges: they're porous, they're in contact with soil and groundwater on the back side, they experience severe freeze-thaw stress in Fredericton's climate (the St. John River valley sees cold, hard winters with reliable frost from November through March), and they're often contaminated with efflorescence — the white chalky mineral deposits that leach out of concrete over time. None of these challenges are dealbreakers, but each one needs to be addressed before paint goes on.

Surface prep for concrete foundations:

Start by removing all loose paint, efflorescence, and dirt. A stiff wire brush, a pressure washer at moderate pressure, and a masonry chisel for stubborn areas will handle most of this. Efflorescence must be removed completely — paint applied over efflorescence will peel as the minerals continue to migrate to the surface. Use a commercial efflorescence remover (muriatic acid diluted to roughly 10%, or a dedicated product like Drylok Etch) applied according to directions, then rinse thoroughly. This also opens the pores of the concrete and improves paint penetration.

Fill any cracks wider than 3mm with a hydraulic cement or concrete patching compound before painting. In Fredericton's freeze-thaw climate, water gets into any unsealed crack, freezes, expands, and makes the crack worse every winter — paint alone will bridge a hairline crack but won't seal a structural crack. Allow all repairs to cure completely (typically 24–48 hours minimum) before painting.

Paint selection:

Elastomeric masonry paint is the premium choice for Fredericton foundation walls — products like BASF MasterSeal or Sherwin-Williams ElastoShield stretch and contract with the concrete through freeze-thaw cycles

without cracking. They also bridge hairline cracks up to 1–2mm. These products run \$50–80/gallon and go on thick, typically at coverage rates of 50–75 sq ft per litre. They're the right call for any foundation with a history of moisture entry or active efflorescence.

100% acrylic masonry paint (like Drylok Masonry Waterproofer, or Benjamin Moore MasonrySealant products) is the most common choice for above-grade foundation walls and exposed concrete — \$40–60/gallon, good durability, and widely available at hardware stores in Fredericton. Apply two coats, brushing the first coat into the pores of the concrete rather than rolling it on.

What NOT to use: Standard exterior latex house paint (\$55–80/gallon for premium grades) is not suitable for concrete. It can't bond to the porous, alkaline surface without a proper masonry primer, and even with primer it lacks the flexibility and moisture resistance needed for a foundation wall. Epoxy paint works well on horizontal concrete (garage floors, patios) but is unnecessarily expensive and difficult to apply on vertical foundation walls.

For a typical Fredericton bungalow foundation (exposed concrete wall perimeter of 50–80 linear feet, roughly 1–1.5 metres exposed above grade), a professional exterior foundation paint job including prep and two coats runs approximately \$500–1,500 depending on height exposed, the amount of repair work needed, and accessibility. This is a manageable DIY project for a homeowner who's comfortable with a wire brush and a stiff paint brush — just take the prep steps seriously and don't rush the drying time between coats.

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How does NB's freeze-thaw cycle affect exterior paint durability and what paint type resists it best?

New Brunswick's freeze-thaw cycle is the single harshest force acting on exterior paint in this province, and the only product that reliably stands up to it is 100% acrylic latex exterior paint. Rigid coatings — particularly alkyd or oil-based paints — crack and chip under repeated expansion and contraction, while quality acrylic latex stays flexible enough to move with the substrate.

NB experiences well over 100 freeze-thaw cycles per year in many areas, and in some inland regions like Fredericton and Woodstock that number climbs even higher. The physics are straightforward but brutal: water infiltrates the smallest crack or gap in a paint film, freezes overnight, expands by roughly 9%, then melts and contracts again the next afternoon. Repeat this cycle dozens of times a winter and even a paint job that looked fine in October will be peeling and flaking by April. The damage is often worst on north-facing walls and soffits where moisture from ice and snow lingers longest.

The key property to look for is **elongation** — the ability of a dried paint film to stretch and flex without cracking. Premium 100% acrylic exterior paints from Benjamin Moore (Aura Exterior), Sherwin-Williams (Duration Exterior), or Dulux (Weathershield) have elongation ratings that allow them to move with wood, metal, and masonry through NB's wide temperature swings, from -25°C in February to +35°C in August. These paints also breathe better than oil-based coatings, allowing moisture vapour from inside the wall to escape without lifting the paint film — an important consideration in older NB homes with incomplete vapour barriers.

Surface preparation is just as critical as paint choice. No matter how good your paint is, freeze-thaw damage accelerates dramatically when water can get behind the film. Before any exterior repaint, scrape all loose and peeling material, sand edges smooth, fill nail holes and small cracks with a quality exterior caulk rated for NB temperatures (look for caulks rated to -40°C), and prime all bare wood with an exterior oil or acrylic primer. Pay special attention to end-grain wood on trim, window sills, and boards — end grain absorbs water like a sponge and is the most common starting point for freeze-thaw failure.

If you've had repeated peeling problems on the same wall despite good paint choices, the cause is almost always moisture infiltrating from somewhere — a failed caulk joint, a plumbing leak inside the wall, or missing flashing above a window. A professional painter can often identify these moisture entry points during prep and recommend remediation before repainting, saving you from the same problem recurring two years later.

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Q14

What type of paint is best for exterior clapboard siding on a Moncton home?

For clapboard siding on a Moncton home, the best choice is a premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint — nothing else is as well-suited to the combination of Maritime humidity, freeze-thaw cycles, and the natural movement of wood clapboard. Budget acrylics and any oil-based product will underperform in this climate and on this substrate.

Clapboard siding (also called bevel siding or bevelled boards) is common on homes throughout Moncton's older neighbourhoods — from the century-old Victorians in the Avenues to the postwar bungalows of north Moncton. Wood clapboard expands and contracts significantly across NB's seasons, and it needs a paint film that moves with it. **100% acrylic latex** is flexible when dry, breathable (allowing moisture vapour to escape from the wall cavity without lifting the paint), and resistant to mildew — all critical properties for Moncton's humid coastal climate.

Premium products worth using include **Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior** (around 5-80/gallon), **Sherwin-Williams Duration Exterior** (0-80/gallon), or **Dulux Weathershield** (5-70/gallon). These aren't just marketing names — they have significantly higher pigment loads, better UV stabilizers, and superior adhesion compared to mid-range products. On clapboard that you want to last 10-12 years, the extra 0-20 per gallon is easily justified. A typical Moncton bungalow uses 6-10 gallons for the walls alone.

Sheen choice matters for clapboard. Most painters recommend a **satin finish** on clapboard siding — it has enough sheen to shed water and resist dirt, but not so much that it highlights every surface imperfection or weathering crack. Flat and matte finishes absorb water rather than shedding it, which is a problem on NB exteriors. High-gloss looks commercial and shows every flaw in the wood.

Before painting, always prime any bare wood, knots, or areas where old paint was scraped. Use a **shellac-based stain-blocking primer** (like Zinsser BIN) on resinous knots in cedar or pine clapboard — without it, the resin bleeds through and causes yellowish stains even after multiple coats of top paint. Allow the wood to dry to below 15% moisture content after spring rains before starting — painting over damp clapboard is the most common cause of premature paint failure on Moncton exteriors.

If your clapboard is in rough condition with many layers of old paint, cracking, or significant weathering, it may be worth having a professional assess whether the old paint needs to be stripped or if it can be stabilized with a penetrating primer before repainting. A knowledgeable painting contractor will give you an honest assessment of what the job actually requires.

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Q15

How do I prepare cedar shingle siding for painting on a New Brunswick home?

Preparing cedar shingle siding properly is about 70% of the battle — a rushed prep job on cedar will result in peeling paint within two to three NB winters, regardless of what you spend on paint. Cedar is porous, resinous, and highly sensitive to moisture, so each preparation step matters.

Cedar shingle siding is found on a huge proportion of older New Brunswick homes, particularly in Saint John, Fredericton, and rural communities. Many of these homes have had multiple paint layers applied over decades, and the first step is assessing the condition of existing paint. **If the paint is alligating (a pattern of cracks resembling alligator skin), bubbling significantly, or peeling in large sheets, it needs to be fully stripped** — not just scraped around the edges. Old paint layers on cedar will delaminate and bring new paint down with them.

Once any loose or failing paint is removed, work through these preparation steps:

Clean the surface thoroughly. Cedar shingles in NB's damp climate attract mildew, algae, and surface dirt. Pressure wash at moderate pressure (1,000–1,500 PSI on a fan tip — not a narrow jet that will blast the soft summer wood out of the grain) using a solution of 1 part bleach to 4 parts water with a squirt of dish soap. This kills mildew spores. Allow the shingles to dry completely — a minimum of 48-72 hours of dry weather in June or July, longer in September's cooler air.

Test moisture content. Before priming, check that shingle moisture content is below 15% using an inexpensive pin-type moisture meter. In NB's wet springs, cedar shingles commonly read 20-25% or higher into May — painting over wet cedar is the primary reason exterior paint fails prematurely on NB homes.

Address knots and resinous areas. Cedar has natural oils and resin pockets that bleed through paint, causing brown staining. **Spot-prime these areas with a shellac-based primer** like Zinsser BIN before applying your full coat of primer. On new or bare cedar, a penetrating alkyd primer is preferable to a waterborne primer — it soaks into the open grain and bonds more effectively than a latex primer on raw cedar.

Caulk gaps selectively. Caulk the top edge of each shingle course where it meets the course above, and around window and door trim. Do NOT caulk the butt edges (the exposed bottom edges) — cedar needs to drain and breathe through the butt edges, and sealing them traps moisture inside the wall.

For the finish coat, use a **premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint** in a satin finish. Two full coats are the minimum — and on cedar that has been stripped or has significant bare wood, you may find you need three coats to get solid, even coverage. For professional-quality results on a full cedar exterior, this is genuinely a job that benefits from an experienced contractor who knows NB's cedar housing stock.

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What causes exterior paint to peel on homes in Saint John near the Bay of Fundy?

Peeling exterior paint in Saint John almost always comes down to one of three causes: moisture in the substrate, salt air degradation of the paint film, or inadequate surface preparation before the last repaint — and often it's a combination of all three. The Bay of Fundy environment is genuinely one of the toughest in the country for exterior coatings.

Saint John sits at the mouth of one of the world's highest-tidal estuaries, and the city's older uptown and south end neighbourhoods face salt-laden fog, constant moisture cycling, and Bay of Fundy winds that drive rain and spray horizontally into west- and south-facing walls. Salt air accelerates paint breakdown by attacking the binder in the paint film — it makes paint brittle, causes chalking, and creates tiny surface cracks that allow moisture to penetrate. Once moisture is behind the paint film and the temperature drops below freezing, the freeze-thaw cycle does the rest: water expands as it freezes, pushes the paint off the substrate, and by spring you have peeling sections.

Moisture from inside the wall is an equally common culprit that Saint John homeowners often overlook. Many homes in older Saint John neighbourhoods — built in the late 19th and early 20th centuries — have solid masonry or balloon-frame construction without modern vapour barriers. Interior moisture from cooking, bathing, and breathing migrates outward through the walls and tries to escape through the siding. If it encounters a paint film that has lost its breathability (old alkyd/oil paint in particular), it builds up pressure behind the film and pushes it off. The result looks like the paint failed from the outside, but the cause is actually interior moisture.

How to address it for repainting: First, identify and eliminate the moisture source — whether that's a failed caulk bead around a window frame, a missing piece of flashing above a door, or a vented bathroom exhaust that terminates in a wall cavity rather than outside. No paint will stick long-term if moisture is actively driving it off.

Second, for Saint John and coastal NB applications, consider a **marine-grade or salt-resistant exterior acrylic**. Products like Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior or Sherwin-Williams Duration are engineered to handle UV, moisture cycling, and salt exposure better than standard exterior products.

Third, strip all loose and peeling paint back to a firm edge, sand smooth, spot-prime bare wood with an oil-based exterior primer (which penetrates and seals better than latex on weathered wood), caulk all joints and gaps with a quality exterior polyurethane or elastomeric caulk rated to -40°C, and apply two full coats of the finish product.

For Saint John homes with significant peeling on a two-storey exterior or on multiple elevations, this is genuinely a job for a professional — the prep work alone is substantial, and the coastal environment means shortcuts will come back to bite within a few seasons.

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Q17

Should I use oil-based or latex paint for exterior trim on my Fredericton home?

For exterior trim on a Fredericton home, the modern answer is a high-quality acrylic-alkyd hybrid paint — and for most applications, premium 100% acrylic latex is an excellent and more practical choice than traditional oil-based paint. Pure oil-based (alkyd) exterior trim paint has largely been replaced in professional painting practice for good reasons.

The traditional argument for oil-based trim paint was its hardness, levelling, and ability to give a very smooth, durable finish on wood trim, doors, and window frames. That argument still has merit for the finish quality, but modern **acrylic-alkyd hybrid paints** like Benjamin Moore Advance or Sherwin-Williams Emerald Urethane now deliver comparable hardness and levelling while drying faster, resisting yellowing, and remaining flexible enough to handle Fredericton's significant temperature swings — from -25°C in January to +32°C in July.

The case against pure oil-based on Fredericton exteriors: Traditional oil-based paint becomes rigid and brittle over time. In NB's freeze-thaw climate, a rigid paint film on trim is a liability — when the wood underneath expands and contracts, the brittle oil film cracks rather than flexing. Once it cracks, moisture enters, freeze-thaw does its work, and you're peeling in 3-4 years. Premium acrylic latex and acrylic-alkyd hybrids maintain their flexibility over the life of the film. On south and west-facing trim in Fredericton, where direct summer sun hits hard, this flexibility advantage is especially significant.

Practical considerations: Oil-based paint also requires mineral spirits for cleanup, has significantly higher VOCs, takes 24 hours or more to dry between coats, and yellows noticeably over time — especially on white trim in shaded areas. On a project where you want to complete the trim in a day or two within NB's short exterior painting

season, the faster dry time of acrylic products is a meaningful advantage.

When oil-based still makes sense: On a bare wood surface in very rough condition, a penetrating oil-based primer (not a top coat) is still the best choice for the first coat — it soaks into the wood fibres and bonds more aggressively than a waterborne primer. After the oil primer, you can and should top-coat with a high-quality acrylic latex or acrylic-alkyd hybrid finish.

For trim work, use a satin or semi-gloss finish regardless of product type — semi-gloss is the traditional trim choice and holds up well to scrubbing and weathering. Apply with a quality brush (a 2.5-inch angled sash brush from Purdy or Wooster is ideal for trim detail work) and keep coats thin for the best levelling and fewest brush marks.

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Q18

How does salt air in coastal New Brunswick areas like Shediac affect exterior paint?

Salt air is one of the most aggressive forces acting on exterior paint in coastal New Brunswick, and homes in Shediac, the Northumberland Strait communities, along the Bay of Fundy shoreline, and the Bathurst coastline need a different approach to exterior painting than inland NB homes. The difference in paint longevity between a properly protected coastal home and one that isn't can be three to four years per paint cycle.

Salt in the air arrives in two forms in coastal NB: as actual sea spray carried by wind close to the shoreline, and as salt-laden humidity that penetrates well inland during storm systems off the Northumberland Strait or Bay of Fundy. Even homes 2-3 kilometres from the coast in Shediac can experience meaningful salt exposure during nor'easters. Salt attacks exterior paint through several mechanisms: it penetrates microscopic surface cracks and, when

moisture cycles in and out, causes the crystals to expand and contract, widening cracks over time. Salt also reacts with the binder in paint films, breaking down the molecular structure of the coating and accelerating chalking, fading, and loss of adhesion.

On metal surfaces — railings, metal fascia, eavestroughs, and any metal trim — salt air is even more destructive. Bare metal in a coastal NB location will begin to rust or corrode within months without proper protection. Always prime metal with a **rust-inhibiting metal primer** before top-coating, and use a marine-grade or acrylic enamel topcoat on metal elements exposed to salt air.

Product choices for coastal NB: Look for exterior paints with “marine-grade” or “salt-resistant” language, or choose the highest-tier acrylic latex products from each brand — Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior, Sherwin-Williams Duration, or Dulux Weathershield. The more expensive products earn their price in coastal applications: better UV stabilizers, higher pigment load, and superior binder technology that resists salt degradation. In Shediac specifically, local painting contractors often recommend applying a full coat of exterior primer even on previously painted surfaces before the finish coat, to create an additional layer of protection.

Maintenance is especially important near the coast. Walk your exterior every spring after the ice melts and look for new cracking around window frames, trim joints, and any area where caulk has separated. Re-caulk with a quality polyurethane exterior caulk rated to -40°C. Touch up any bare spots with primer and paint before the summer humidity season begins. A coastal NB home maintained annually will outlast a neglected one by years between full repaints.

For a home within sight or smell of the ocean, a full exterior repaint every 6-8 years is a realistic expectation even with quality paint and proper prep — the salt environment simply accelerates wear. Budget accordingly and prioritize quality materials over saving a few dollars per gallon.

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What temperature range is safe for exterior painting in New Brunswick and what happens if it gets too cold overnight?

The safe temperature range for exterior painting in New Brunswick is between 10°C (50°F) and 30°C (86°F), both at application time and for at least 24-48 hours afterward — and in NB's climate, the overnight low is just as important to check as the daytime high. Paint applied on a warm NB autumn afternoon can be ruined overnight if temperatures drop unexpectedly.

Most latex exterior paints have a minimum application temperature of 10°C printed on the label, and manufacturers mean that as both an air temperature and a surface temperature requirement. In NB's springs and falls, it's common for air temperature to reach 12-14°C by mid-afternoon while the north-facing side of your house — which hasn't seen sun all day — is still sitting at 5-7°C. Painting over a cold surface, even if the air is warm enough, causes adhesion problems and uneven drying.

What happens when fresh paint freezes: If temperatures drop below 2-4°C within 24-48 hours of application (before the paint has fully cured), several problems occur. Water-based latex paint that hasn't yet fully set can freeze and thaw in the film itself, destroying the structure of the cured paint layer — the result is a surface that appears to have dried normally but has poor adhesion and will peel within the first winter. The colour may also shift or develop an uneven sheen as the pigments and binder separate during freezing. Some paints have “low-temp” formulations rated to 7°C, but even these require above-freezing overnight temperatures to cure properly.

NB-specific timing concerns: This is a real hazard in northern NB (Bathurst, Edmundston, Campbellton) from mid-September onward, when overnight lows can reach 3-5°C even when daytime temperatures are pleasant. In central and southern NB (Moncton, Fredericton, Saint John), this risk typically begins in early to mid-October. Always check the Environment Canada 48-hour forecast — not just the high, but the overnight low — before starting any exterior painting day.

Hot weather has risks too. Painting in direct sun above 27-30°C (especially on dark-coloured siding in full summer sun, where surface temperatures can exceed 40°C) causes the paint to skin over on the surface before the underlying layer has dried, trapping moisture and solvents. This leads to wrinkling, poor adhesion, and bubbling. Schedule exterior painting in NB summers to begin after the morning dew has dried (usually 9-10 AM) and finish by 3-4 PM before peak afternoon heat.

The reliable exterior painting window in NB runs from **mid-May through mid-October** — roughly five months. Within that window, check the forecast carefully and target days with temperatures between 12-25°C, humidity below 70%, no rain in the 24 hours before or after, and overnight lows staying above 7°C. Professional painters plan their seasonal schedule around exactly these conditions.

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Q20

What is the best way to deal with mildew on exterior siding before repainting in Moncton?

Mildew must be completely killed and removed before repainting — painting over active mildew is one of the most common and costly exterior painting mistakes in Moncton, and it causes new paint to fail within a single growing season. Mildew is a living organism that grows right through new paint, and the dark stains it leaves will bleed through fresh coats even after the mildew is dead unless you treat the surface properly.

Moncton's combination of Maritime humidity (regularly 65-80% relative humidity in summer), moderate temperatures, and significant tree canopy in many residential neighbourhoods creates near-ideal conditions for mildew growth on north-facing siding, soffits, fences, and areas shaded by trees or neighbouring structures. The dark grey-to-black discolouration you see on these surfaces isn't just dirt — it's biological growth (a mix of mildew, algae, and sometimes moss) that needs to be addressed differently than ordinary cleaning.

The proper treatment process:

Start with a **bleach-water solution**: mix 1 part household bleach (sodium hypochlorite) with 3-4 parts water and add a small amount of dish soap or a purpose-made exterior cleaner like Jomax. Apply with a garden sprayer or soft-bristled brush, working from the bottom up to avoid drip streaks setting into dry siding. Let the solution dwell on the surface for 10-15 minutes — you'll often see the black colouration visibly lighten as the bleach kills the mildew.

Rinse thoroughly from top to bottom with clean water. A pressure washer at 1,000-1,500 PSI works well for rinsing; on softer or older wood siding, use a garden hose with a high-pressure nozzle rather than a pressure washer, which

can raise the grain and damage the surface.

Allow the siding to dry completely. In Moncton's climate, this means a minimum of 48-72 hours of dry weather before priming. Check with a moisture meter — wood siding should read below 15% moisture content before paint goes on. Rushing this step on a damp NB spring day is the reason mildew problems recur.

Prime with a mildew-resistant primer. Many exterior primers contain mildewcides — check the label for this claim and use it on previously affected surfaces. Stain-blocking primers like Zinsser Bulls Eye or a quality oil-based exterior primer will also help prevent bleed-through of residual mildew staining.

For the finish coat, choose an exterior acrylic latex with built-in mildewcide — Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior and Sherwin-Williams Duration both contain mildewcides in the formulation. These don't prevent mildew indefinitely (nothing does in Moncton's climate), but they significantly slow regrowth.

If mildew is a recurring annual problem on specific areas of your home — especially north faces or areas under large trees — address the conditions: trim branches to increase sun exposure and airflow, check eavestroughs for drips onto the siding, and ensure the grading around the foundation directs water away from the house. Annual light cleaning with a diluted bleach solution in spring will extend the life of your paint job considerably.

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Q21

Should I pressure wash my house before painting the exterior in New Brunswick?

Yes — pressure washing before exterior painting is essential in New Brunswick, and skipping it is one of the most reliable ways to guarantee early paint failure. Paint simply will not bond properly to a surface covered

in dirt, algae, mildew, chalked old paint, or salt residue, and NB's climate gives every one of those problems a chance to develop.

New Brunswick's Maritime humidity and relatively mild summers create ideal conditions for algae and mildew to colonize exterior walls, particularly on north- and east-facing surfaces in shadier spots. Shediac, Miramichi, and Saint John waterfront homes often have a greenish film of algae across their clapboard or vinyl siding by late summer. That biofilm is alive, and if you paint directly over it, the new paint acts as food and the mildew grows right through it within a season. A thorough pressure wash with a mildewcide cleaner — or a mix of one part bleach to three parts water — kills and removes the growth before you ever pick up a brush.

Chalking is another NB-specific concern worth mentioning. Older acrylic and alkyd exterior paints break down under UV and weathering, leaving a chalky, powdery residue on the surface. You can test for it by running your finger firmly across the wall — if it comes away with a white powder, you have chalking. Paint applied over significant chalking will delaminate as the chalk continues to release from the substrate. A good pressure wash strips that layer away and reveals solid, clean paint underneath that new coatings can bond to.

Practical approach for NB homeowners: Rent or hire out a pressure washer capable of 1,500 to 2,500 PSI. Higher pressure is not always better — too much force on cedar shingles, older clapboard, or softened wood can raise the grain, drive water deep into the wood, and damage siding. Keep the wand moving, hold it at an angle rather than perpendicular to the surface, and work from top to bottom. After washing, add a mildewcide rinse or TSP (trisodium phosphate) wash for walls with visible mildew. Then — and this is the part NB homeowners most often rush — **wait a minimum of 48 to 72 hours before painting**, longer if the weather is cool or overcast. Wood must get below 15% moisture content before paint goes on. A 0 moisture meter from any hardware store will confirm when you're ready.

If the job involves a two-storey home, significant mildew, or heavy chalking across the full exterior, hiring a professional who will pressure wash, treat, rinse, and prep the surface before their crew starts painting is money very well spent. The quality of the wash determines the quality of the paint job that follows it.

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How long does exterior paint last in New Brunswick compared to drier Canadian provinces?

Exterior paint in New Brunswick typically lasts 5 to 8 years on most surfaces with quality products and good preparation, compared to 8 to 12 years or more in drier provinces like Alberta and Saskatchewan. The difference comes down almost entirely to NB's Maritime climate — high humidity, frequent rain, heavy freeze-thaw cycling, and coastal salt exposure all accelerate paint breakdown.

To understand why NB is hard on exterior paint, consider what happens through a typical year. Spring brings heavy rain, snowmelt, and wood that has absorbed winter moisture — paint applied the previous fall may already be dealing with trapped moisture trying to escape outward through the coating. Summer brings humidity that regularly hits 75-85% in coastal communities and river valleys, giving mildew and algae a foothold on north and east-facing walls. Then fall delivers early frosts and freeze-thaw cycling that can begin in October in places like Edmundston and Bathurst. That freeze-thaw action is paint's most relentless enemy: water seeps into microscopic cracks, freezes and expands, then thaws and contracts — over 100 or more cycles per year in many NB locations — slowly prying the coating away from the substrate beneath it.

Alberta, by comparison, is cold but dry. Interior provinces like Saskatchewan experience cold winters but very low annual precipitation and far fewer freeze-thaw cycles because temperatures stay consistently cold rather than fluctuating back and forth across the freezing point. Less moisture means less paint stress and much longer service life.

What this means for your NB home: The 5-to-8-year range is achievable with quality 100% acrylic latex paint (Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior, Sherwin-Williams Duration, Dulux WeatherShield), proper surface prep, and application within the May-to-October window. Expect the lower end — or shorter — if you use mid-grade or economy paint, paint over damp wood, skip primer on bare spots, or live in a coastal area around Saint John, Shediac, or the Bay of Fundy shore where salt spray is a factor. Exposed south and west-facing walls can fade and break down a couple of years earlier than protected north and east-facing walls due to direct UV exposure, even though it's the north-facing walls that grow mildew fastest.

Practical tips to maximize longevity in NB: Start with premium 100% acrylic — the flexibility to handle freeze-thaw is built into the resin chemistry of high-quality acrylic latex and simply is not there in cheaper formulations or oil-based paints. Prime every bare spot, knothole, and caulk joint. Caulk and seal every gap at trim, window frames, and corner boards before painting. Touch up any chips or cracked areas as soon as you notice them — NB winters will convert a small chip into a major peeling problem within one or two seasons. A small investment in annual maintenance keeps the full repaint 8 years out rather than 5.

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Q23

What is the best exterior paint for north-facing walls in NB that get mildew and algae growth?

For north-facing walls in New Brunswick that attract mildew and algae, you want a premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint with built-in mildewcide, applied over a properly cleaned and treated surface. The paint choice matters, but the surface preparation matters even more — no paint will stay mildew-free if applied over an existing colony.

North-facing walls in NB get the worst of it: limited direct sunlight, slow drying after rain, persistent cool moisture, and often full shade for much of the day. Miramichi, Fredericton's older west-side neighbourhoods, and many homes in the Saint John River Valley see heavy algae growth on north exposures every two or three years because the conditions are essentially ideal for biological growth. The key is attacking this problem from both sides — prep and product.

Preparation is non-negotiable. Before any paint goes on, the surface must be thoroughly cleaned with a mildewcide wash. A solution of one part household bleach to three parts water, applied with a pump sprayer and scrubbed in, then rinsed after 15 minutes, kills existing mildew and algae effectively and cheaply. Commercial mildewcide products like Wet and Forget or a purpose-made exterior wash concentrate work even better. After washing, rinse thoroughly and let the surface dry for 48 to 72 hours minimum. Check wood moisture content with a moisture meter — you need below 15% before painting.

For the paint itself, look for these specific qualities: **100% acrylic latex** (not vinyl-acrylic, not alkyd), **built-in mildewcide**, and high-quality titanium dioxide pigment for UV resistance even on shaded walls. Products that NB

painting contractors consistently reach for on problem north exposures include Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior, Sherwin-Williams Duration, and Dulux WeatherShield. These are in the 5-80/gallon range but deliver noticeably better mildew resistance and durability than mid-grade alternatives.

Colour choice also plays a small role. Lighter colours show mildew more visibly but actually absorb less heat and reduce the thermal stress on the coating. Darker colours on north-facing walls can hide algae longer but may create more condensation-related issues in NB's humid climate. A mid-tone colour in a low-sheen satin finish (rather than flat, which holds moisture against the surface) is a practical choice for problem north walls.

One more step worth considering: after painting, an annual or biennial spray of a diluted mildewcide concentrate (like Wet and Forget Ready-To-Use) on north-facing walls in late spring acts as preventive maintenance that significantly extends the time before mildew can re-establish. This is a quick DIY task that takes 20 minutes per side of the house and is vastly easier than a full strip and repaint every three years. If the problem keeps returning despite quality paint and proper prep, investigate whether there's a moisture source nearby — a leaking gutter, a sprinkler system hitting the wall, or poor drainage at the foundation — that is keeping the wall perpetually damp.

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Q24

Can I paint the exterior of my house in September or October in New Brunswick before winter?

September and early October can actually be excellent months for exterior painting in New Brunswick — but timing depends heavily on where in the province you live and how closely you watch the daily forecast. By mid-October, the risk grows significantly, and by November, exterior painting is not viable for most of NB.

September brings some real advantages over peak summer for exterior work. Humidity tends to drop compared to July and August, especially in the Fredericton and Saint John areas, which means better paint application and faster drying. There are fewer insects landing in wet paint. Temperatures in the 15°C to 22°C range are close to ideal for acrylic latex application. And you avoid the brutal heat of direct summer sun on south-facing walls that can cause paint to dry too quickly and develop lap marks.

The risk rises as you push toward mid-October, and it varies significantly by region. **Southern NB** — greater Moncton, Saint John, Sussex, and Shediac — has a somewhat longer window into October due to the moderating influence of the Bay of Fundy and the warmer coast. **Northern and inland NB** — Bathurst, Edmundston, Campbellton, and the upper Saint John River valley — can see overnight lows below 5°C or even frost by late September. Frost on fresh paint before it has cured is paint-killing. The rule is simple: **the overnight low must stay above 10°C for at least 48 hours after application**, and ideally for 72 to 96 hours while the paint cures fully.

Check the paint can's minimum application temperature — most premium acrylic latex exterior paints specify 10°C as the minimum air and surface temperature during application and for several hours after. Some newer low-temperature formulations (Benjamin Moore Aura, for example) have been extended to 4.4°C, which gives a bit more wiggle room in late October if temperatures are borderline — but this is the exception, not the rule, and you should read the specific product's TDS (Technical Data Sheet) to confirm.

Practical advice for fall exterior painting in NB: Check a 10-day forecast, not just a 3-day forecast. Paint in the morning once temperatures have risen above the minimum threshold, and wrap up by early afternoon. Avoid painting if overnight dew point and low temperatures suggest condensation will form on the surface before the paint cures. Focus first on the south and west-facing walls that get the most weathering — those are your priority if time is running short before winter. Soffits, fascia, and trim under overhangs are more protected and can sometimes be tackled a bit later in the season than exposed walls.

If you have a full exterior repaint to do and it is already late September in northern NB, seriously consider whether it is worth starting a job that cannot be completed properly before freeze risk. A partial repaint left unfinished over winter is often worse than waiting until May. Talk to a local professional — they will have a very accurate read on the local painting window for your specific area.

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How do I paint exterior window frames and trim without getting paint on the glass?

The two reliable methods for keeping trim paint off glass are masking tape applied precisely along the glass edge, or painting deliberately right up to the glass and scraping the dried overspray off with a razor blade scraper once the paint cures. Most professional painters who do a lot of exterior trim work actually prefer the razor blade approach — it is faster than perfect taping and produces a cleaner result.

The masking tape method works well if you use the right tape and apply it carefully. For exterior trim work, use a quality painter's tape rated for exterior use — standard blue indoor tape can lift under humidity and wind, allowing bleed underneath. Press the tape firmly along the glass edge where it meets the frame, running your fingernail along the junction to ensure full contact with no gaps. For wooden window frames with slight warping or irregularity — very common in older NB homes in Fredericton and Saint John where window frames have expanded and contracted over decades — getting a perfect tape line can be surprisingly fiddly. Remove the tape while the paint is still slightly tacky, not bone dry, and pull it back at a 45-degree angle to get a clean edge.

The razor blade approach requires more confidence but delivers a sharper line. Paint right up to the glass and even slightly onto it — this actually seals the junction between the frame and glass, which is a critical gap where water infiltrates and causes frame rot in NB's wet climate. Let the paint dry completely (at least 24 hours in warm dry weather, longer in humid conditions), then use a window scraper with a fresh single-edge razor blade held at a low angle against the glass. The paint peels off cleanly as a thin ribbon. The slight amount of paint on the glass seals the joint without causing any visual problem. This is exactly what most experienced painters do, and it is faster than precise taping on every window.

For NB homes with older wooden windows, pay particular attention to the glazing compound — the putty that holds the glass in the frame. Cracked, missing, or dried-out glazing compound is the primary entry point for moisture that eventually rots the sill and frame. Before painting, scrape out any loose or cracked glazing, replace it with fresh linseed oil putty or a quality exterior glazing compound, let it skin over for 2 to 3 days, then prime and paint over it. This maintenance step extends the life of wooden windows dramatically and should be part of any exterior trim painting job on older NB homes.

Regarding prep: clean the frames thoroughly before painting. Exterior window frames accumulate grime, mildew, and chalk from weathered paint. A wipe-down with TSP solution or a good all-surface cleaner, followed by a rinse and dry, ensures adhesion. Lightly sand any glossy or peeling areas and spot-prime bare wood. Use a quality trim paint — a satin or semi-gloss acrylic-alkyd hybrid like Benjamin Moore Advance or Sherwin-Williams Emerald Urethane is ideal for window frames because it levels beautifully, hardens to a durable surface, and resists dirt

pickup.

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Q26

How do I paint a porch or veranda floor in New Brunswick that gets heavy foot traffic and weather exposure?

A porch floor in New Brunswick needs a dedicated porch and floor enamel or a two-part epoxy floor paint — standard exterior wall paint is not hard enough to handle foot traffic and will scuff, chip, and peel within one season. With the right product and proper prep, a painted porch floor can look excellent for 3 to 5 years before needing a refresh.

NB porch floors face a punishing combination of conditions: heavy rain from Maritime storms, grit and sand tracked in from winter boots and road salt, freeze-thaw cycling that works at any small crack or edge, intense summer UV on south and west-facing verandas, and constant foot traffic. The product must be chosen specifically for this environment.

The best options for NB porch floors:

An **oil or alkyd porch and floor enamel** (like Sherwin-Williams Porch & Floor, or a comparable alkyd enamel) gives an extremely hard, abrasion-resistant surface that holds up well to foot traffic. Oil-based formulas take longer to dry — 24 hours between coats and 72 hours before resuming full foot traffic — and have higher VOC content, so ventilation matters during application. They do not flex as well as acrylics in freeze-thaw, which means any moisture that gets under them can cause peeling at the edges, but they are excellent for covered verandas with limited direct moisture exposure.

A **100% acrylic porch and floor paint** (Benjamin Moore Porch and Floor, Dulux Premium Floor) offers better flexibility for freeze-thaw cycling and is a better choice for floors exposed to direct rain. Dry times are shorter (4-6 hours between coats, 24-48 hours to light traffic). These are a better default choice for most NB porch floors that are not covered.

For a truly heavy-duty surface — a busy family home, a commercial entrance, or a floor with a history of rapid wear — a **two-part epoxy floor coating** is the most durable option, though application is more demanding and temperature-sensitive.

Surface preparation for a porch floor: Start with a thorough cleaning. Sweep and wash the floor, scrubbing out any grease, mildew, or embedded dirt. Old loose paint must be scraped and sanded. For bare wood sections, spot prime with an exterior oil primer before topcoat. Check for any soft, punky, or rotted boards and replace them before painting — paint over rot is just hiding a structural problem. Sand the entire floor lightly (80 grit) to give tooth, and blow out the cracks and joints. Apply two coats of porch enamel, rolling or brushing in the direction of the boards.

Timing is critical in NB. Apply porch floor paint only when temperatures are reliably above 15°C, humidity is below 70%, and no rain is forecast for 48 hours. A freshly painted porch floor in mid-June that gets rained on at hour 10 will wrinkle and need to be stripped and redone. June, July, and August are the ideal months for porch floor painting in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John. Plan to keep the floor out of traffic for 48 to 72 hours after the final coat — longer in cooler, humid conditions.

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Q27

How do I deal with peeling paint on soffit and fascia boards on my NB home?

Peeling paint on soffits and fascia is one of the most common exterior painting problems on New Brunswick homes, and it almost always comes back to moisture — either from inadequate attic ventilation, ice dam leakage, or paint applied over damp wood. Getting a lasting result means fixing the moisture source first, not just scraping and repainting.

NB's climate is brutal on these areas. Winter ice dams force meltwater up under shingles and into fascia boards. Spring thaw saturates unprotected soffit vents with moisture. Summer humidity keeps north-facing and tree-shaded soffits damp for weeks at a time. When paint is applied over wood with moisture content above 15%, or when moisture migrates through the wood from the attic side, the paint lifts and peels no matter how good the product is.

Before picking up a scraper, inspect your attic ventilation. Blocked soffit vents, insufficient ridge venting, or a poorly vapour-barriered ceiling force humid air into the wood from inside — and no amount of exterior paint will stop that cycle. Fix the ventilation, and the peeling problem often solves itself.

Prep is the entire job for soffits and fascia. Start by scraping all loose, flaking, and bubbling paint down to a firm edge using a stiff scraper and a detail sander or oscillating tool for the wood grain. Sand the scraped areas smooth (80-grit, then 120-grit). Check for soft or punky wood — any rot must be repaired with exterior wood filler or epoxy consolidant before painting. Fill all nail holes and cracks with paintable exterior caulk, and re-caulk any gaps where fascia meets trim or soffit.

Prime all bare wood immediately — do not leave bare soffits or fascia exposed overnight, especially in the damp springs common in Moncton, Fredericton, and the St. John River valley. Use an oil-based or high-adhesion acrylic exterior primer on bare spots. If you see grey or black staining (mildew), treat with a diluted bleach solution (1 part bleach to 3 parts water) and let it dry fully before priming. **Painting over mildew seals it in and it grows right through your new topcoat within one season.**

For the topcoat, use a **100% acrylic latex exterior paint** — \$55-80/gallon for a premium product. Semi-gloss sheen is standard for soffits and fascia: it's washable, mildew-resistant, and stands up to moisture better than eggshell or flat. Two coats minimum, applied in dry weather with temperatures above 10°C.

A professional painter typically charges **\$1,500-4,000** for soffit, fascia, and trim-only exterior work on an average NB home, depending on height, linear footage, and condition. If your boards have extensive soft spots and peeling, or if the home is a full two-storey with steep rooflines, working at height safely requires scaffolding or extension ladders — that's when it's worth hiring a professional.

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