

NEW BRUNSWICK PAINTING

---

# Maintenance & Touch-ups

Paint maintenance, touch-up techniques, repainting schedules, paint storage, and longevity tips for NB homes

16 Expert Answers from Paint IQ

[newbrunswickpainting.com/construction-brain](https://newbrunswickpainting.com/construction-brain)

# Table of Contents

---

1. How do I keep painted wood window frames from cracking and peeling through multiple NB winters without repainting every two years?
2. How often should the exterior of a vinyl-sided home in Moncton be washed to prevent mildew buildup between painting cycles?
3. What seasonal inspection checklist should NB homeowners follow each spring to identify paint deterioration caused by winter frost and ice damming?
4. How do I touch up exterior clapboard paint in the fall on my Fredericton home without the new paint looking different from the aged original coat?
5. How long does interior paint last before I need to repaint rooms in my NB home?
6. How do I do a paint touch-up on a wall without it being visible in my Moncton home?
7. What causes paint to turn yellow over time on white trim in New Brunswick homes?
8. How do I clean painted walls without damaging the finish in my NB home?
9. How do I fix paint bubbling or blistering on exterior walls of my Fredericton home?
10. What causes paint to crack in an alligator pattern on exterior siding in New Brunswick?
11. How do I store leftover paint properly so it stays good for touch-ups in NB's climate?
12. When should I repaint my exterior trim versus my full house exterior in New Brunswick?
13. How do I fix chalking paint on the exterior of my Saint John home near the coast?
14. What is the best way to repair and repaint water-damaged drywall in a New Brunswick home?
15. How do I prevent mildew from growing on painted exterior surfaces in humid NB summers?
16. How often should I repaint the exterior of a wood-sided home in New Brunswick?

## How do I keep painted wood window frames from cracking and peeling through multiple NB winters without repainting every two years?

**The key to long-lasting painted window frames in New Brunswick is using 100% acrylic latex paint over properly prepared surfaces, combined with annual caulking maintenance and moisture control.** Most window frame paint failure happens because rigid oil-based paints can't flex with NB's 100+ freeze-thaw cycles per year, or because moisture gets behind the paint through failed caulk joints.

### Choose the Right Paint System

Window frames take the worst beating of any exterior surface in NB — they're fully exposed to weather, experience constant thermal expansion and contraction, and are prime spots for moisture infiltration. Use a premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint (Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior, Sherwin-Williams Duration Exterior, or Dulux Diamond Exterior) in satin or semi-gloss sheen. These paints remain flexible at low temperatures and can handle the expansion and contraction without cracking. Avoid oil-based or alkyd paints on window frames — they become brittle in cold weather and crack under freeze-thaw stress.

Always use a high-quality bonding primer on bare wood or previously painted surfaces that are chalky or glossy. For windows with multiple paint layers or staining issues, use a stain-blocking primer like Zinsser Cover Stain or Benjamin Moore Fresh Start.

### Surface Preparation is Critical

Scrape all loose and peeling paint down to solid, well-adhered coating or bare wood. Sand glossy surfaces to provide tooth for the new paint. Fill nail holes and small gaps with exterior wood filler, and sand smooth once dry. The most important step: **remove all old caulk** from around the window frame where it meets the siding, trim, and sill. Old, cracked caulk is the number one cause of moisture infiltration that leads to paint failure from behind.

Clean the frames thoroughly with TSP or a degreasing cleaner to remove dirt, oxidation, and any mildew. Rinse well and allow to dry completely — wood moisture content should be below 15% before painting.

### Moisture Control and Caulking

After priming and painting, apply a high-quality exterior acrylic caulk (like DAP Dynaflex 230 or Tremco Dymonic) to all joints where the window frame meets siding, trim, brick, or stone. This flexible caulk moves with thermal expansion and keeps water out. **Plan to inspect and touch up caulking annually** — this 30-minute maintenance task in late fall can add 2-3 years to your paint job.

Check that your windows have proper flashing and that water drains away from the sill. Standing water on window sills soaks into the wood and pushes paint off from behind. If you have older windows without drip caps or proper flashing, consider having these installed by a carpenter before repainting.

### **Timing and Application in NB Climate**

Paint window frames during NB's prime exterior season (June through early September) when humidity is manageable and temperatures are consistently above 15°C. Avoid painting in direct hot sun — the rapid drying can cause brush marks and poor adhesion. Early morning or late afternoon application works best.

Apply thin, even coats rather than trying to cover in one heavy coat. Two thin coats of quality paint will outlast one thick coat by years. Allow the recommended recoat time between coats — in NB's humid summers, this might be 4-6 hours instead of the 2-4 hours listed on the can.

### **When to Call a Professional**

If your windows are original to a pre-1978 home, they likely have lead paint. Window frames were commonly painted with lead-based paint because of its durability. **Never sand, scrape, or disturb suspected lead paint yourself** — hire a professional with lead-safe work practices, especially if you have children in the home.

Professional painters also have the spray equipment to achieve the smoothest possible finish on window frames, which helps water run off rather than pooling in brush marks.

With proper preparation, quality materials, and annual caulk maintenance, you should get 5-7 years from a professional window frame paint job in NB's climate, and 4-5 years from a careful DIY job.

---

Q2

## **How often should the exterior of a vinyl-sided home in Moncton be washed to prevent mildew buildup between painting cycles?**

**Vinyl siding in Moncton should be power washed annually, ideally in late spring (May) or early fall (September), to prevent mildew buildup and extend the time between painting cycles.**

Moncton's location in the Petitcodiac River valley creates particularly humid conditions that promote mildew growth on north-facing walls and shaded areas of vinyl siding. The combination of Maritime humidity, morning dew, and limited air circulation around many Moncton homes makes annual cleaning essential rather than optional.

**Spring cleaning** is ideal because it removes winter salt residue, pollen, and organic debris that feeds mildew growth during the humid summer months. Use a pressure washer set to 1,500-2,000 PSI (never exceed 2,500 PSI

on vinyl) with a 25-40 degree spray tip. Work from bottom to top to avoid streaking, and rinse thoroughly from top to bottom. Add a mildew-killing solution like 30% white vinegar or oxygen bleach (never chlorine bleach, which can damage vinyl) to areas showing dark staining.

**Fall cleaning** removes summer mildew growth, tree sap, and prepares the siding for winter. This is particularly important on the north and east sides of Moncton homes, which receive less direct sunlight and stay damp longer after rain or morning dew.

For homes in heavily shaded areas or near the Petitcodiac River where humidity is consistently higher, consider **twice-yearly washing** in May and September. Pay special attention to areas under eaves, around deck railings, and near landscaping where air circulation is poor.

**Spot cleaning** mildew as soon as you notice it prevents it from spreading. A simple solution of water and white vinegar in a garden sprayer can handle small areas between annual washes. Never let mildew establish itself for a full season — it becomes much harder to remove and can permanently stain vinyl siding.

**When to repaint vinyl siding:** Quality vinyl siding in Moncton typically needs repainting every 8-12 years with proper annual maintenance. Signs it's time include fading (especially on south and west exposures), chalking when you run your hand across the surface, or mildew staining that won't clean off. Well-maintained vinyl siding can often go 10-15 years between paint cycles, while neglected siding may need attention every 6-8 years.

Need help finding a professional for pressure washing or vinyl siding painting? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local contractors experienced in Moncton's humid climate conditions.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- moose luxury painting
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- Thirty Four Renovations
- Loves Painting Ltd.

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

Q3

# What seasonal inspection checklist should NB homeowners follow each spring to identify paint deterioration caused by winter frost and ice damming?

**Spring is the critical time for NB homeowners to assess winter damage to exterior paint, as freeze-thaw cycles and ice damming cause the majority of paint failures that will worsen rapidly if not addressed before the next winter.**

The combination of NB's harsh winters—with temperatures swinging from -30°C to above freezing dozens of times—and heavy spring moisture creates perfect conditions for paint deterioration. Ice damming, particularly common on older homes in Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton with inadequate insulation, forces water behind exterior trim and siding where it freezes, expands, and pushes paint off from behind.

## **Exterior Paint Inspection (April-May)**

Start your inspection after the last snow has melted but before you're ready to paint—typically mid to late April in southern NB, early May in northern areas. Walk around your home systematically, checking each elevation in good daylight.

**Focus on ice dam damage areas first:** eaves, gutters, and the first three feet of roofline where ice dams form. Look for paint that's bubbling, peeling, or flaking off in sheets—this indicates water got behind the paint film and froze. Check soffit and fascia boards carefully, as these take the brunt of ice dam overflow. Any paint that moves when you press it with your thumb needs to be scraped and reprimed before repainting.

**Inspect caulk joints and trim details** where water penetration is most likely. Window and door trim, corner boards, and horizontal trim pieces are vulnerable spots. Look for caulk that's cracked, shrunk, or pulled away from the wood—failed caulk allows water entry that leads to paint failure from behind. Check for any soft or spongy wood, which indicates moisture damage that must be repaired before painting.

**Examine south and west-facing walls** for UV damage and thermal cycling effects. Paint on these exposures fades faster and becomes chalky or brittle. Run your hand along the siding—if it leaves a chalky residue, the paint surface has degraded and needs cleaning and possibly a bonding primer before recoating.

**Check foundation areas and lower siding** for splash-back staining, mildew, and moisture damage. Spring runoff and poor drainage create conditions for mildew growth and paint deterioration at ground level. Any green or black discoloration needs cleaning with a mildew remover before assessment.

## **Interior Moisture Assessment**

Don't overlook interior paint problems that develop over winter. NB's older homes often lack proper vapor barriers, and winter condensation can cause interior paint to peel from behind, particularly in bathrooms, kitchens, and north-facing bedrooms. Look for paint bubbling or peeling on exterior walls, water stains on ceilings near the roofline, and

any musty odors that indicate hidden moisture problems.

### **Timing Your Repairs**

The key to spring paint maintenance in NB is timing. Surface preparation work—scraping, sanding, priming bare spots—can begin as soon as conditions are dry, even in cool weather. But actual painting must wait until nighttime temperatures stay consistently above 10°C and wood moisture content drops below 15%. Use a moisture meter on any questionable wood surfaces; painting over damp wood is the fastest way to waste money on paint that will fail within a year.

### **When to Hire a Professional**

While homeowners can handle ground-level inspection and minor scraping, hire a professional for any work involving ladders above 10 feet, extensive ice dam damage, or suspected structural moisture problems. Professional painters have the equipment to safely assess and repair high areas, and they can distinguish between cosmetic paint failure and underlying moisture issues that need addressing before repainting.

Need help finding a professional painter for spring repairs? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local contractors experienced in winter damage assessment and repair through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- M And M Painting
- Loves Painting Ltd.
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- Worry No More Handyman Services

[View all contractors ?](#)

## How do I touch up exterior clapboard paint in the fall on my Fredericton home without the new paint looking different from the aged original coat?

**Touching up exterior clapboard in fall requires careful colour matching and blending techniques, but the timing is actually ideal — September and early October offer some of the best painting conditions in New Brunswick with lower humidity and moderate temperatures.**

The biggest challenge with exterior touch-ups is that your original paint has likely faded from UV exposure, especially on south and west-facing walls that get the most sun in Fredericton. Even if you have leftover paint from the original job, it probably won't match the weathered colour on your house. Here's how to get the best results:

**Start with proper colour matching** by taking a paint chip from an inconspicuous area (like behind a downspout or under an eave) to your local Benjamin Moore or Dulux dealer. They can scan it and mix a custom match. If the original paint is more than 3-4 years old, the faded colour will be noticeably lighter than the original formula. For small touch-ups, buy a quart rather than a full gallon.

**Surface preparation is critical** even for touch-ups. Scrape any loose or peeling paint, sand rough edges smooth, and prime any bare wood with a high-quality exterior primer. Clapboard siding often has moisture issues where paint fails first — typically at joints, nail holes, and the bottom edges of boards. Make sure the wood is completely dry (below 15% moisture) before painting. Fall in New Brunswick can still have heavy dew, so wait until mid-morning after surfaces have dried.

**The blending technique makes the difference** between obvious patches and invisible repairs. Instead of painting just the damaged area, extend your touch-up to natural break lines — paint the entire damaged clapboard from corner to corner, or from one vertical trim piece to another. This avoids the "band-aid" look where you can see exactly where the new paint starts and stops. Use a high-quality angled brush (2-3 inches) and feather the edges where new paint meets old.

**Apply thin, even coats** and expect to use two coats for proper coverage and durability. The first coat acts as a primer-sealer over your spot repairs, and the second coat provides the final colour and protection. In fall conditions, allow extra drying time between coats — what might dry in 4 hours in summer could take 6-8 hours in October's higher humidity.

**Watch the weather closely** in fall. Fredericton can see overnight lows approaching freezing by late October, and you need temperatures above 10°C during application and for 24 hours afterward. Stop work if frost is forecast. The good news is that fall's lower humidity actually helps paint level out smoothly and reduces brush marks.

For extensive touch-ups or if your clapboard has multiple problem areas, consider having the entire affected wall or side of the house repainted professionally. The cost difference between spot repairs and a full wall isn't huge, and you'll get a uniform appearance that will last another 8-10 years in New Brunswick's climate.

Need help finding a professional painter for larger repairs? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local contractors experienced in heritage clapboard restoration common in Fredericton's older neighborhoods.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- Thirty Four Renovations
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- M And M Painting
- Loves Painting Ltd.

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

Q5

## How long does interior paint last before I need to repaint rooms in my NB home?

**With quality paint and proper preparation, interior walls in a New Brunswick home typically last 7-10 years before a full repaint is warranted — but high-traffic areas like hallways, kitchens, and bathrooms often need refreshing every 4-6 years, while low-traffic bedrooms can go 10-15 years without touching them.** The range is wide because paint longevity depends far more on surface preparation, paint quality, and how much wear a room takes than on the paint brand alone.

The biggest factor in how long interior paint lasts in NB homes is not the paint itself — it's what the paint was applied to. A properly cleaned, lightly sanded, primed surface with two coats of premium latex will outlast a hurried repaint over a dirty, glossy, unprimed surface by a factor of two or three. Many older Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John homes have been painted and repainted numerous times, and layers of incompatible paint over improperly prepared surfaces is a significant reason why paint seems to fail early in these homes. When you strip back to the cause, it's almost always prep and adhesion, not the paint product itself.

NB's indoor climate plays a role as well. Forced-air heating systems common in NB homes create very dry winters — relative humidity drops to 20-30% in some homes without humidifiers. While this is good for paint drying, extreme dryness over many years can cause paint to become brittle and crack at joints, around window and door frames, and along baseboards. The seasonal cycling from very dry (January through March) to more humid (July and August) creates minor expansion and contraction in wall surfaces that, over years, can show up as fine hairline cracking. High-quality flexible acrylic latex paints handle this better than cheaper or older formulations.

### **Room-by-room breakdown for NB homes:**

**Kitchens and bathrooms** take the most abuse — steam, cooking grease, cleaning products, and high moisture all accelerate paint degradation. Even with a quality satin or semi-gloss finish, plan to repaint every 4-6 years. Mildew growth on bathroom ceilings is the most common prompt for bathroom repaints in NB.

**Hallways, stairwells, and mudrooms** suffer from physical contact, scuffing, and the seasonal drama of winter coats and muddy boots. A washable eggshell or satin finish buys you time, but expect to repaint every 5-8 years.

**Living rooms and dining rooms** in good condition with low foot traffic can often go 8-12 years between full repaints, especially if you stay on top of touch-ups.

**Bedrooms** are the most forgiving — a lightly used bedroom with good paint and no moisture issues can genuinely last 10-15 years before needing a full repaint rather than just touch-ups.

The real-world trigger for most NB homeowners is aesthetic rather than structural — you're tired of the colour, the room feels dated, or accumulated scuffs and marks have made the walls look worn. That's a perfectly valid reason to repaint, and paint is one of the most cost-effective transformations you can make to a home. A fresh coat of paint in a bedroom costs 50-550 professionally done and completely changes the feel of the room.

New Brunswick Painting can match you with a local interior painter for a free estimate on refreshing any room in your home.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- moose luxury painting
- Worry No More Handyman Services
- Thirty Four Renovations
- Gionetterenovations

Q6

## How do I do a paint touch-up on a wall without it being visible in my Moncton home?

**Invisible touch-ups are one of the trickiest things in residential painting, but with the right approach you can get very close to seamless.** The key is matching not just the colour but the sheen level, the texture, and the application method — all three have to align for the touch-up to disappear.

Start with the paint itself. If you have leftover paint from the original job, stir it thoroughly before use — settled pigment and separation are common in stored cans, and using unsettled paint will give you a noticeably different shade. If the paint is more than two years old, it may have shifted slightly in colour even in storage. Bring the can to a Benjamin Moore or Dulux dealer in Moncton to have it re-tinted or matched against the existing wall. A quality spectrophotometer scan of a chip from the wall will get you within 90-95% accuracy.

The technique matters as much as the paint. Use the same type of applicator as the original coat — if the walls were rolled, use a small foam roller to touch up, not a brush. Brush strokes read as a different texture and sheen under light, even with identical paint. Apply a small amount, feather the edges outward in a circular or cross-hatch pattern, and resist the urge to go back and fiddle with it while it is wet. Let the first pass dry completely, then assess in natural daylight.

**Here is the uncomfortable truth about touch-ups in older NB homes:** paint on walls fades and ages over time, especially on south-facing rooms that get strong Maritime sun through the windows. A touch-up with fresh paint on a wall that has been there for three or four years will almost always be slightly visible at certain angles in raking light. If the difference is noticeable after two careful touch-ups, the practical solution is to repaint the entire wall from corner to corner. That way the colour difference is hidden at natural break points rather than floating in the middle of an open surface.

**Practical tips:** prime small bare patches before touching up — a tiny dab of PVA primer or the same paint thinned slightly (10% water) helps the touch-up blend rather than sitting on top of the surrounding paint. Touch up in the same lighting conditions and temperature that were present when the original coat was applied. In humid Moncton summers, give touch-up coats extra drying time — what looks blended when wet can look patchy once fully dry if humidity is high.

For walls in good condition with relatively fresh paint, a careful DIY touch-up is entirely achievable. If the wall has multiple touch-ups that are already visible, or if the paint is older than three years, it is worth having a professional

painter assess whether a full wall repaint is the more economical long-term solution.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- M And M Painting
- Gionetterenovations
- Worry No More Handyman Services
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

## What causes paint to turn yellow over time on white trim in New Brunswick homes?

**White trim yellowing in New Brunswick homes is almost always caused by one of three things: oil-based alkyd paint oxidising with age, lack of sunlight exposure, or nicotine and cooking residue — and the fix depends entirely on which one you are dealing with.**

Oil-based and alkyd paints were the standard trim finish for decades, and they are still found in huge numbers of pre-2000 homes across Fredericton, Saint John, and Moncton. Alkyd paint produces a beautiful, hard, smooth finish — but it contains resins that oxidise over time, and this oxidation process produces a yellow or amber tint. This yellowing is dramatically accelerated in spaces with little natural light, such as interior hallways, closets, back bedrooms, and rooms with small or north-facing windows. The same trim in a sun-filled living room will stay much whiter because UV light actually slows the oxidation process. This is one of the more counterintuitive things about alkyd paint — sunshine keeps it white, while shade turns it yellow.

Nicotine and tobacco smoke is the other major culprit in NB homes, particularly in older housing stock. Nicotine binds chemically to painted surfaces and produces a deep amber-yellow stain that cannot be washed off or painted over without a proper stain-blocking primer. If the home has a history of indoor smoking, every white surface will yellow over time regardless of paint type. You will know this is the source if the yellowing is uniform across all surfaces — walls, ceiling, and trim equally — and if there is a faint residue when you wipe the surface with a damp cloth.

**In NB homes built from roughly the 1950s through the late 1990s**, oil-based trim paint is essentially universal. If your white trim has yellowed, the most reliable fix is to sand it lightly, clean it thoroughly with TSP (trisodium phosphate) solution, apply a coat of Zinsser BIN shellac-based primer or a good bonding primer, and then apply two coats of a modern acrylic-alkyd hybrid trim paint in white. Benjamin Moore Advance or Sherwin-Williams ProClassic in satin or semi-gloss finish will not yellow — modern water-based acrylic formulas do not undergo the same oxidation reaction.

**Practical tips:** if you are repainting yellowed trim and the cause is oxidation rather than staining, you may not need a full stain-blocking primer — a quality bonding primer and two coats of premium acrylic trim paint will do the job. However, if there is any nicotine, water, or smoke staining, do not skip the shellac primer. Painting over nicotine staining with regular paint or even a latex primer will cause bleed-through within weeks. Use an oil-based or shellac-based stain blocker like Zinsser BIN as your first coat in those situations.

Preventing future yellowing is simple: switch to a modern water-based acrylic or acrylic-alkyd hybrid trim paint (Benjamin Moore Advance, Sherwin-Williams Emerald Urethane, Dulux Enduraclad) and the yellowing problem

essentially disappears. These products give you the hardness and smooth finish of alkyd paint without the oxidation chemistry.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- moose luxury painting
- Loves Painting Ltd.
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- Gionetterenovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

Q8

## How do I clean painted walls without damaging the finish in my NB home?

**The safest way to clean painted walls is to start gentle and only escalate if needed — a damp microfibre cloth handles most everyday dirt, while a diluted dish soap solution tackles grease and scuffs without damaging the finish.**

The sheen of your paint is the most important factor here. **Flat and matte finishes** are the most delicate — they were not designed to be scrubbed, and even a damp cloth applied with too much pressure will burnish (polish) the surface, leaving a shiny spot that is impossible to hide without repainting. Flat paint should be dabbed, not rubbed, and only with the gentlest pressure. **Eggshell and satin finishes** are much more forgiving and can handle a gentle sponge wash with mild soap. **Semi-gloss and gloss finishes** on trim, doors, kitchens, and bathrooms are the most washable — you can use a soft cloth with diluted all-purpose cleaner without concern.

For general wall cleaning in NB homes, plain warm water on a damp sponge or microfibre cloth removes a surprising amount of dust, light dirt, and smudges without any risk to the paint. For grease spots — especially on kitchen walls near the stove — a few drops of dish soap in warm water is effective and safe on eggshell and higher sheens. Rinse the area with a clean damp cloth afterward to remove any soap residue. TSP (trisodium phosphate) is a stronger option for heavily soiled walls before repainting, but it is too aggressive for routine cleaning and will strip sheen from matte and eggshell finishes.

**In New Brunswick's climate**, walls in rooms with wood stoves or propane heating tend to accumulate a fine greasy film from combustion byproducts over the winter months. This shows up as yellowing or grime concentrated near heat sources and on ceilings. A mild degreaser like diluted dish soap works well here. Coastal NB homes near Saint John and Shediac can also get a faint mineral film on walls near windows from salt-laden moisture that condenses on cooler wall surfaces — this wipes off easily with a barely damp cloth.

**Practical tips for cleaning without damage:** always wring your cloth or sponge almost completely dry before touching the wall — excess water can seep into drywall at seams and cause swelling or paint lifting. Work in small sections, cleaning and drying as you go. Use a soft white cloth, not coloured rags that can transfer dye. For scuffs from furniture or shoes, a melamine foam eraser (like a Magic Eraser) works well on semi-gloss and gloss finishes, but use it very lightly on matte and eggshell — it is mildly abrasive and will dull the finish if you scrub.

The practical limit of cleaning is this: if the paint is flat or low-sheen, heavily soiled, or older than five to seven years, cleaning may reveal or worsen the problem more than it solves it. At that point, a fresh coat of paint is often the most efficient solution — and winter is the ideal time for interior repaints in NB, with low humidity and faster drying conditions.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations
- Worry No More Handyman Services
- M And M Painting

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

Q9

## How do I fix paint bubbling or blistering on exterior walls of my Fredericton home?

**Paint bubbling and blistering on exterior walls is always a symptom of one of two things: moisture trapped behind the paint film, or paint applied in poor conditions that did not adhere properly.** In Fredericton, the most common cause by far is moisture — and you need to find and eliminate the moisture source before any new

paint will last.

When blisters appear on exterior paint, the paint film has lifted away from the substrate because moisture or vapour has pushed from behind. In older Fredericton homes — particularly wood-framed clapboard and spruce-sided houses built before the 1980s — moisture entry points are plentiful: failed caulking around windows and doors, split or cracked siding, roof leaks that track down inside wall cavities, inadequate vapour barriers in the wall assembly, and even interior humidity from kitchens and bathrooms pushing through walls that lack proper vapour control. The moisture vapour migrates outward and gets trapped under the paint, which expands with the heat of the sun and forms a blister.

The other common cause is paint applied to a wet or damp surface, or in direct hot sun on a very warm day. If the surface temperature gets above 35-40°C, the top skin of the paint cures before the bottom has dried, trapping solvent vapour underneath. In Fredericton's hot July and August sun, south and west-facing walls can reach these temperatures by midday. Blisters from this cause will tend to appear within days of painting rather than months later, and when you pop them, there will be paint — not liquid water — inside.

**To fix the problem properly**, start by scraping off all loose and blistered paint back to a firm edge or to bare wood. Sand the edges smooth to remove any raised lips. If you find bare wood, probe it with an awl to check for rot — soft or spongy wood needs to be repaired or replaced before painting. Let the area dry completely, which in Fredericton's climate may take several days of dry weather after rain. Test the wood moisture content with an inexpensive moisture meter — you need to be below 15% before any primer or paint can be applied.

Address the moisture source. Caulk any gaps around window frames, door frames, corner boards, and trim joints with a good quality paintable acrylic caulk. Check that gutters and downspouts are directing water away from the wall. If interior humidity is the source, a bathroom exhaust fan upgrade or a dehumidifier can help manage moisture levels.

Once dry, apply a coat of exterior alkyd or shellac primer to the bare spots, feathering out onto the surrounding intact paint. Then apply two full coats of a premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint — products like Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior or Sherwin-Williams Duration are formulated to be vapour-permeable enough to breathe without blistering, and flexible enough to handle the freeze-thaw cycles Fredericton sees 100+ times a year.

For isolated small repairs, this is a reasonable DIY project if you can identify and fix the moisture source. If blistering is widespread across an entire wall or multiple sides of the house, or if you suspect a structural moisture issue, bring in a professional painter — and potentially a building inspector — to assess whether there is a larger problem inside the wall assembly.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- Loves Painting Ltd.
- Worry No More Handyman Services
- moose luxury painting

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

## What causes paint to crack in an alligator pattern on exterior siding in New Brunswick?

**Alligatoring** — that distinctive cracked, scaly pattern that looks like reptile skin — is almost always caused by paint layers that have lost their flexibility and can no longer expand and contract with the substrate underneath. In New Brunswick, our climate practically guarantees this will happen eventually if the wrong paint was used or if layers were built up improperly over the years.

The physics of alligatoring are straightforward: wood siding expands and contracts with every change in temperature and moisture level. NB experiences enormous swings — a July afternoon in Saint John might be 28°C and 80% humidity, while January nights can drop to -25°C with bone-dry cold. That is a dramatic range for a painted wood surface to endure. Paint that remains flexible — modern 100% acrylic latex — can stretch and compress with the movement without cracking. But paint that has hardened and become rigid over time will crack instead of flex, and the cracks propagate in that characteristic alligator pattern following the grain and stress lines of the wood.

**In older NB homes**, particularly those built before the mid-1990s when oil-based and alkyd exterior paints were the norm, alligatoring is extremely common. Oil-based paints cure hard and brittle, and they continue to harden with age. After 10-15 years, an oil-based exterior finish has lost most of its flexibility. If a second or third coat of paint was then applied on top — especially with a latex paint over an old oil-based coat without proper cleaning and priming — the incompatibility of the two layers causes the top coat to peel and crack as the bottom layer moves differently. The layer-cake effect of 40-60 years of repainting on old Fredericton or Moncton clapboard houses often results in a thick, rigid paint film that cracks dramatically.

Poor application practices also contribute. Paint applied too thick in a single coat, paint applied before the previous coat was fully cured, or paint applied in cool conditions that slowed proper curing — any of these can create internal stress in the film that leads to cracking as the paint ages.

**The fix requires commitment to proper prep.** Light surface alligatoring can sometimes be scraped, sanded, primed, and repainted. But severe or deep alligatoring — where the cracking goes through multiple layers down to bare wood — requires removing all the old paint, ideally back to bare wood. This can be done by hand scraping, chemical paint strippers, or heat guns (never heat guns on suspected lead paint surfaces). Once you are down to bare wood or a stable sound layer, prime with a quality exterior alkyd or acrylic primer and apply two coats of a premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint.

**A word of caution for pre-1978 NB homes:** those many layers of old paint often contain lead, especially on trim and siding. Scraping or sanding alligatorated surfaces without proper containment creates toxic lead dust. Have the

paint tested before any aggressive removal work, and if lead is confirmed, hire a professional with lead-safe work practices. Never do aggressive paint removal on older NB homes without knowing what you are dealing with.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- Gionetterenovations
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- Loves Painting Ltd.
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

**Q11**

## How do I store leftover paint properly so it stays good for touch-ups in NB's climate?

**Properly stored latex paint can last 10 years or more, but New Brunswick's climate — particularly the freeze-thaw cycles in unheated garages and basements — is the single biggest threat to leftover paint.** The key rules are: keep it sealed, keep it from freezing, and keep it out of heat.

Latex paint is an emulsion — tiny polymer particles suspended in water — and it is destroyed by freezing. When latex paint freezes and thaws, the polymer particles clump together irreversibly. The paint looks lumpy, stringy, or separated after thawing, and it will never perform properly again even if you stir it. This is a very real problem in New Brunswick, where unheated garages in Moncton, Fredericton, Saint John, and across the province can drop to -20°C or colder from December through March. A garage shelf that seems like a logical storage spot will destroy your leftover paint by February.

**The right storage location in an NB home** is a heated interior space that stays above 7°C year-round — a basement utility room, an interior closet, or under the stairs. Avoid exterior walls where temperatures fluctuate, and avoid anywhere near the furnace or water heater where excessive heat can dry out the paint and break down the binders. A consistent temperature between 10°C and 25°C is ideal.

Before sealing the can, clean the rim of dried paint with a damp cloth or putty knife so the lid creates an airtight seal. Press the lid down firmly — a rubber mallet works well, but be careful not to dent the rim. Some painters flip latex paint cans upside down for storage, which creates a seal at the lid and prevents a skin from forming on the surface. If you try this, make sure the lid is absolutely tight first. Alternatively, you can cut a circle of plastic wrap to lay directly on the paint surface before closing the lid, which prevents oxidation and skin formation.

**Label every can before storing** — write the room it came from, the paint brand, colour name and number, sheen, and the date. You will thank yourself in three years when you need a touch-up and cannot remember if the bedroom was Benjamin Moore Soft Chamois in eggshell or Pale Oak in satin. A piece of painter's tape on the side of the can is a quick, reliable label.

Oil-based paints store better than latex in cold conditions — they will not freeze — but they do skin over more readily and eventually dry out in the can. A layer of mineral spirits on top before sealing slows skinning in oil-based products.

**Before using old stored paint**, stir it slowly and thoroughly for two to three minutes and check the consistency. Good paint that has been properly stored will re-emulsify smoothly. If it is lumpy, stringy, or has a sour smell, it has gone bad. Test it on a piece of cardboard to check colour and consistency before touching up your walls. If the colour looks right and the paint levels smoothly, it is fine to use. If it has separated badly or shows signs of freezing, discard it — NB municipalities accept old latex paint at household hazardous waste depots.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- Loves Painting Ltd.
- Gionetterenovations
- moose luxury painting

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

**Q12**

**When should I repaint my exterior trim versus my full house exterior in New Brunswick?**

**In New Brunswick's climate, exterior trim almost always needs repainting before the main siding does — and targeting trim refresh on a 4-7 year cycle while repainting the full exterior every 8-12 years is a cost-effective strategy that prevents moisture damage.**

Trim takes the hardest punishment of any exterior surface. Horizontal surfaces like window sills and door sills collect standing water during NB's heavy spring rains. South- and west-facing trim gets intense UV exposure. Window frames expand and contract with every freeze-thaw cycle, cracking caulking and letting moisture into the wood.

**Warning signs that your trim needs immediate attention:** paint that is cracking, peeling, or flaking off; soft or discoloured wood visible under the paint; caulking that has pulled away from window frames; or rust staining below metal hardware. Any of these conditions means moisture is already entering the wood — repaint within the current exterior season (May to October in NB).

A targeted trim repaint costs **\$1,500-4,000** depending on home size and trim complexity. That's far cheaper than letting moisture rot the wood, which can turn into a **\$3,000-8,000** carpentry repair job.

For the **full exterior repaint**, the NB rule of thumb is 8-10 years for premium 100% acrylic latex on properly prepared surfaces, and 5-7 years for mid-range products or coastal homes. Cedar shingle siding common on older homes often needs repainting or restaining every **6-8 years**.

**Practical decision guide:** If your siding still looks solid but your trim is showing wear, do a **trim-only refresh**. Use a quality exterior trim paint (semi-gloss or satin acrylic, **\$55-80/gallon**). Two coats minimum. If both siding and trim are showing age, a **full repaint** at once makes more financial sense since mobilization costs are the same. The price difference between trim-only (**\$1,500-4,000**) and full exterior (**\$4,000-12,000**) may be smaller than you expect.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- moose luxury painting
- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations
- Loves Painting Ltd.

[View all contractors ?](#)

## How do I fix chalking paint on the exterior of my Saint John home near the coast?

**Chalking is the powdery white residue that rubs off on your finger when you touch older exterior paint, and it is extremely common on coastal Saint John homes — the combination of Bay of Fundy salt air, UV exposure, and moisture accelerates the breakdown of paint binders that causes chalking.** The fix is manageable, but skipping the removal step will cause your new paint to fail within a season.

Chalking happens because UV radiation and weathering break down the resin binders in exterior paint over time, releasing the pigment particles as a loose powder on the surface. All exterior paint chalking to some degree as it ages — in fact, older formulations were deliberately designed to chalk as a self-cleaning mechanism, allowing rain to slowly wash away the surface layer and with it any dirt and mildew. The problem comes when chalking is excessive because the paint is past its useful life, or when you try to apply new paint over a chalky surface without proper preparation. New paint applied over chalking is essentially painting over a layer of loose powder — the bond will fail and the new paint will peel.

In Saint John and other Bay of Fundy coastal communities, the salt-laden air adds an extra layer of complexity. Salt spray deposits on painted surfaces and, combined with moisture cycling from fog and humidity, accelerates the breakdown of conventional exterior paints. Marine-grade exterior paints or high-quality 100% acrylic exterior formulas designed for high-moisture environments will outperform standard exterior paints in these conditions.

**Cleaning and prep for chalking surfaces is straightforward but essential.** The most effective method is power washing at moderate pressure — 1,200 to 2,000 PSI with a 40-degree fan tip, held 30-45 cm away from the surface. This removes the chalk layer, salt deposits, dirt, and any loose paint. Let the surface dry completely — at least 48-72 hours of dry weather — and check the moisture content with a moisture meter before painting (below 15% for wood). On Saint John's coast, where foggy mornings are common, this drying window can be tight; plan your prep day and your paint days for forecast stretches of dry, moderate-humidity weather.

After washing, inspect closely for any remaining loose or peeling paint and scrape those areas back to a firm edge. Fill any cracks or gaps in siding joints and around trim with paintable acrylic caulk. Apply a coat of a chalk-sealing primer — Sherwin-Williams Loxon or a similar bonding exterior primer is designed specifically for chalky or porous masonry and painted surfaces. This primer penetrates and consolidates the existing surface rather than just sitting on top of it.

Then apply two coats of a premium 100% acrylic latex exterior paint. In Saint John's coastal environment, products like Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior or Sherwin-Williams Duration are worth the premium price — 5-80 per gallon — because they contain higher-quality UV-resistant pigments and more durable binder systems that will outperform

cheaper products by several years. On a home near the coast, the difference between a 5/gallon paint and a 5/gallon paint is often three to four additional years before the next repaint cycle.

Power washing, priming, and two-coat repainting is well within DIY capability for single-storey homes with manageable ladder access. For two-storey or higher work, or extensive trim prep on a large Saint John heritage home, hiring a professional painter who understands coastal exposure is a worthwhile investment.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- Thirty Four Renovations
- M And M Painting
- Loves Painting Ltd.
- Gionetterenovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

**Q14**

## **What is the best way to repair and repaint water-damaged drywall in a New Brunswick home?**

**Water-damaged drywall needs to be fully dry and structurally sound before you touch any paint — the most common and costly mistake homeowners make is painting over a repaired area before the underlying drywall has completely dried out.** In New Brunswick's humid climate, this drying process takes longer than most people expect.

The first step is always to find and fix the source of the water. Painting over water damage without addressing the cause is a waste of time and money — the damage will come back, often worse. Common sources in NB homes include roof leaks, ice dams (a major issue in February and March after heavy snowfall), failed bathroom caulking, plumbing leaks inside walls, and condensation from inadequate bathroom ventilation. Once the source is fixed, let the area dry completely. In summer, this might take 5-7 days with a dehumidifier running. In a cool fall or spring, it can take two weeks. Use a moisture meter to confirm the drywall reads below 12% before proceeding — most hardware stores in Moncton and Fredericton carry these for under 0.

**Once dry, assess the structural damage.** Water-damaged drywall often develops mould on the paper facing or within the gypsum core. If you see visible black or green mould, or if the drywall feels soft, crumbles, or the paper separates from the gypsum, that section of drywall needs to be cut out and replaced entirely — not repainted. Mould encapsulation products exist, but painting over active mould without replacing the material is not a proper repair, especially in living spaces. NB homes with inadequate vapour barriers — common in pre-1980 construction — are particularly prone to recurring moisture and mould in the same spots.

For drywall that is dry, solid, and free of active mould, the repair sequence is: lightly sand any raised or bubbled areas, apply joint compound to smooth any cracks or indentations caused by the water damage, let the compound dry fully (24-48 hours minimum), sand smooth, and prime. The primer step is critical — **use a stain-blocking primer on every water-damaged surface.** Water stains contain minerals and organic compounds that will bleed through standard latex paint no matter how many coats you apply. A shellac-based primer like Zinsser BIN or an oil-based stain blocker is the only reliable solution. Apply one full coat, let it dry for the manufacturer's recommended time, and the stain is sealed permanently.

After priming, apply two coats of a matching paint in the correct sheen. Be aware that even perfect colour matching may show at certain angles if the repaired area has a slightly different texture than the surrounding wall. In a room with older textured or eggshell-painted walls, the repaired patch may appear smoother — especially if it required new joint compound. Lightly stippling the wet primer or paint with a short-nap roller can help blend texture.

DIY drywall repair is manageable for small isolated patches in sound condition. However, if the water damage is extensive (more than one or two square feet), if there is any mould, if the damage is in a ceiling where structural drywall integrity matters, or if the moisture source is unclear, bring in a professional — both for the structural assessment and for a seamless finish repair that blends into the surrounding surface.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- Worry No More Handyman Services
- Loves Painting Ltd.
- Thirty Four Renovations
- FRS Flooring Solutions

[View all contractors ?](#)

## How do I prevent mildew from growing on painted exterior surfaces in humid NB summers?

**Mildew on exterior painted surfaces is one of the most common complaints from NB homeowners, and with good reason — the combination of Maritime humidity, shade from mature trees, and warm summers creates nearly ideal conditions for mildew and algae growth on siding, soffits, and trim.** Prevention starts with the right paint choice and continues with regular maintenance.

Mildew is a living organism, and it grows wherever it finds moisture, organic material to feed on, and moderate temperatures. North-facing walls that stay damp longest, shaded sides of the house where a neighbour's trees block the sun, and soffits over porches where air circulation is poor are the classic mildew hot spots in NB. River valley communities like Fredericton along the Saint John River, and coastal communities from Shediac to Saint John, see heavier mildew pressure than drier inland areas, but really no part of New Brunswick is mildew-free during July and August.

**Choosing a paint with a mildewcide built in is your first line of defence.** Most premium exterior paints — Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior, Sherwin-Williams Duration, Dulux Weathershield — contain mildewcide compounds that inhibit surface mould and mildew growth. These are not permanent — the mildewcide concentration at the paint surface diminishes over time through weathering — but they provide meaningful protection for the first several years after a fresh coat. Budget exterior paints often contain little or no mildewcide, which is one reason you see mildew appearing within one or two seasons on cheaper paint jobs. When getting quotes for exterior painting in NB, ask specifically whether the proposed product contains a mildewcide.

**Surface prep before repainting is the most important prevention step.** Never paint over mildew. Mildew that is painted over is not killed — it is sealed in a moist, dark environment that is actually more hospitable than the open air. It will grow right through the new paint within one season. Before any exterior repaint, wash mildewed surfaces with a solution of one part bleach to three parts water, scrub with a stiff brush, and rinse thoroughly. Let the surface dry for several days before priming and painting. TSP cleaner added to the wash solution helps remove dirt and organic material that mildew feeds on.

**Ongoing prevention between repaints:** an annual spring cleaning with a diluted bleach solution or a commercial mildew wash product (available at paint stores across NB) removes spores before they can establish colonies. A low-pressure garden hose rinse of north-facing walls and soffits after prolonged humid periods helps too. Trim back any trees or shrubs that press against siding or shade walls for most of the day — improving air circulation and sunlight exposure is one of the most effective long-term mildew controls available to homeowners.

For surfaces that are chronically problematic — a north-facing wood wall that shows mildew every two to three years regardless of how well it was painted — consider asking your painting contractor to add a mildewcide additive (like Perma-White additive or a commercial product) directly to the paint at mixing time, over and above what the paint already contains. This is a legitimate practice that provides an extra layer of biological protection for persistently problematic surfaces.

If mildew is recurring rapidly on the same surface despite proper prep and quality paint, it often signals a moisture issue beyond just humidity — a drainage problem at the foundation, a gutter that is overflowing, or siding that is holding moisture from behind. A professional painter can often spot these patterns during an exterior assessment and recommend structural fixes alongside the paint solution.

---

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

- Expressions Painting
- Thirty Four Renovations
- FRS Flooring Solutions
- moose luxury painting
- M And M Painting

[View all contractors ?](#)

## How often should I repaint the exterior of a wood-sided home in New Brunswick?

**Most wood-sided homes in New Brunswick need exterior repainting every 7 to 12 years**, though homes in coastal areas or those with older, thinner paint coats may need it every 5 to 7 years. The wide range comes down to paint quality, surface preparation from the last job, and how much punishment your specific home takes from the Maritime climate.

NB's climate is genuinely hard on exterior paint. You get the full package: salt-laden humidity off the Bay of Fundy and the Gulf of St. Lawrence, intense UV in summer, 100+ freeze-thaw cycles per winter, and spring moisture that works its way into any gap or crack. Wood siding — whether it's clapboard on a 1960s Fredericton bungalow or cedar shingles on a Saint John Victorian — is particularly vulnerable because wood is a living material that expands and contracts with every temperature swing. Even the best paint on the best wood will eventually fail because of this movement.

**What accelerates the need to repaint** is just as important as the calendar. South- and west-facing walls get the most UV and typically show fading or chalking first. North-facing walls and overhanging soffits hold more moisture and mildew, which breaks down the paint film faster. If previous painters skimmed on prep — painted over peeling sections, skipped primer on bare wood, or used builder-grade exterior paint — you may find yourself repainting in 5 years rather than 10. The life expectancy of an exterior paint job is really the life expectancy of its weakest point.

**Signs it's time to repaint** are more reliable than a fixed schedule. Look for peeling or flaking, especially at joints, window frames, and the bottom courses of siding where moisture wicks in from the ground. Chalking (rubbing your hand on the wall leaves a chalky residue) means the paint film is degrading. Fading that's uneven across the house, or cracks that penetrate down to bare wood, mean moisture is getting in and damage is accelerating. Catch it at the chalking or fading stage and you can refresh with good prep and two coats; wait until there's widespread peeling and you're looking at much more extensive scraping, priming, and repair work.

**Practical tip:** Walk around your home every spring once the snow melts — late April or early May — and look at every surface. Pay particular attention to wood trim, window sills, door frames, and the lower 60 cm of siding where splash-back from rain and snowmelt is worst. Northern NB homes (Bathurst, Edmundston, Campbellton) tend to show wear faster than Moncton or Saint John homes because of more severe winter conditions, so check them more carefully.

When it does come time to repaint, timing matters enormously in NB. The reliable exterior painting window runs mid-May through mid-October. Earlier than that, wood moisture content after snowmelt is often still above the 15%

threshold safe for painting, and cold nights can prevent proper curing. A professional painter will use a moisture meter before applying any paint — it is worth making sure yours does the same.

Need help finding a professional painter to assess your home's exterior? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local painters for free through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory.

---

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

---

**Disclaimer:** This guide is provided for informational purposes only by New Brunswick Painting. It does not constitute professional advice. Always consult qualified, licensed contractors and your local building authority before starting any painting project. Information is current as of May 3, 2026 and may change. Visit [newbrunswickpainting.com](https://newbrunswickpainting.com) for the latest answers.