

NEW BRUNSWICK PAINTING

Tools & Techniques

Painting tools, brushes, rollers, sprayers,
techniques, tips, and application methods for DIY
and professional painters

21 Expert Answers from Paint IQ

newbrunswickpainting.com/construction-brain

Table of Contents

1. Should I use a paint tray or a paint bucket with a screen when rolling large wall areas in my Fredericton home?
2. How do I choose the right extension pole length for painting high ceilings in a two-storey Fredericton home?
3. How do I use an online paint calculator to accurately estimate how many gallons I need for a full interior repaint in my Moncton home?
4. What is the difference between a China bristle brush and a synthetic brush and which is better for latex paint in NB?
5. How do I use a caulking gun and what tip size is best for sealing gaps between trim and walls before painting in my NB home?
6. What is the difference between a woven and knit roller cover and which gives a smoother finish on smooth drywall in NB?
7. How do I clean an airless paint sprayer after using it for exterior painting on my New Brunswick home?
8. What is the best paintbrush brand and type for cutting in around trim in a New Brunswick home?
9. What roller nap thickness should I use for different surfaces when painting walls and ceilings?
10. How do I cut in around ceilings and trim without using painters tape?
11. Should I use an airless sprayer or brush and roller for painting interior walls in my NB home?
12. What is back-rolling and should I always do it after spraying paint on walls?
13. How do I avoid roller marks and streaks when painting large wall areas in my Moncton home?
14. What painters tape is best for clean lines and how long can I leave it on before removing?
15. How do I use a paint edging tool versus cutting in freehand with a brush?
16. What is the proper technique for loading a paint roller for even coverage?
17. How do I clean and store paint brushes and rollers between coats and between painting sessions?
18. What is the W or M technique for rolling paint on walls and does it really matter?
19. How do I spray paint exterior siding with an airless sprayer on my NB home?
20. What grit sandpaper should I use between coats of paint on trim and cabinets?

21. How do I prevent brush marks when painting trim and doors in my Fredericton home?

Should I use a paint tray or a paint bucket with a screen when rolling large wall areas in my Fredericton home?

For large wall areas in your Fredericton home, a paint bucket with a roller screen is significantly more efficient and practical than a paint tray. The bucket holds more paint (reducing refill trips), works better with extension poles for high walls and ceilings, and is much less likely to tip over or create spills on your floors.

Paint buckets with roller screens offer several key advantages for interior wall painting. A standard 5-gallon bucket holds enough paint to complete most rooms without refilling, while paint trays typically hold less than a quart and require constant trips back to the main paint container. The roller screen (a metal grid that hangs inside the bucket) allows you to load your roller evenly and remove excess paint just like a tray, but with much greater paint capacity. This setup is especially valuable in older Fredericton homes with high ceilings — many heritage properties downtown and in residential areas have 9-10 foot ceilings that require extension poles, and extension poles work much better with buckets than shallow trays.

The bucket system also reduces mess and waste, which matters when you're painting indoors during Fredericton's long winters when ventilation is limited. Paint trays are notorious for spilling when bumped or when you're maneuvering around furniture. Buckets sit stable on the floor and won't tip easily. You can also cover a bucket with its lid between coats or overnight, keeping the paint fresh — something impossible with an open tray. For the humid summer months in the Saint John River valley, this paint preservation becomes even more important as latex paint can start to skin over in open trays.

Professional painters in New Brunswick overwhelmingly use the bucket-and-screen method for interior walls, reserving trays mainly for trim work with smaller brushes. The bucket system works with any roller size, handles thick paints better (important for premium paints like Benjamin Moore Regal that provide better coverage), and allows you to work continuously without stopping to refill every few minutes.

Use a paint tray only for smaller projects — single accent walls, touch-ups, or when painting trim and doors where you need precise control and are using smaller amounts of paint. For whole rooms, hallways, or multi-room projects in your Fredericton home, the bucket and screen combination will save you time, reduce mess, and give you better results with less effort.

Need help finding a professional painter for larger interior projects? New Brunswick Painting can match you with experienced local contractors who use professional techniques and equipment to get your interior painting done efficiently.

How do I choose the right extension pole length for painting high ceilings in a two-storey Fredericton home?

For most two-storey Fredericton homes with 9-foot main floor ceilings and 8-foot second floor ceilings, a 6-8 foot extension pole will handle the vast majority of your painting needs safely and comfortably. This gives you a total reach of 12-14 feet when combined with your arm length and roller, which covers standard ceiling heights plus some cathedral or vaulted areas.

Understanding Your Ceiling Heights

Most homes built in Fredericton from the 1960s onward have 8-9 foot ceilings on both floors, though older character homes near downtown often feature 10-11 foot main floor ceilings. Measure your actual ceiling height rather than guessing — many homeowners overestimate and buy poles that are unnecessarily long and difficult to control. A 6-foot extension pole reaches about 12 feet total (pole + roller + your arm reach), which handles a 9-foot ceiling with 3 feet to spare for comfortable painting without straining your neck or shoulders.

For homes with **cathedral ceilings, vaulted areas, or stairwell walls**, you may need an 8-12 foot extension pole. These longer poles become significantly heavier and harder to control, especially when loaded with paint. If you have extensive high ceiling work (like a great room with 14+ foot ceilings), consider renting scaffolding or hiring a professional rather than wrestling with an unwieldy 12-foot pole.

Pole Selection and Quality

Choose a **telescoping aluminum pole** over fixed-length or wooden poles. Quality brands like Wooster Sherlock, Purdy, or Mr. LongArm offer smooth extension mechanisms and secure locking. Avoid cheap telescoping poles that slip or wobble — they're dangerous and make smooth painting impossible. A good 6-8 foot telescoping pole costs \$40-80 but will last for decades and handle multiple projects safely.

Technique for High Ceiling Painting

Start with the pole at its shortest comfortable length and extend gradually as needed. Keep the roller moderately loaded with paint — an overloaded roller on a long pole creates tremendous leverage and will tire your arms quickly. Work in 4x4 foot sections, maintaining a wet edge to avoid lap marks. **Take frequent breaks** — extension pole painting is more physically demanding than regular rolling, and fatigue leads to poor coverage and potential accidents.

For **stairwell walls and angled surfaces**, an extension pole is often safer than trying to position a ladder on stairs. However, if you're uncomfortable with the pole length needed or the physical demands, this is an excellent time to hire a professional painter who has the experience and equipment to work efficiently at height.

When to Consider Professional Help

If your Fredericton home has extensive cathedral ceilings, a two-storey foyer, or complex angles that require poles longer than 8 feet, professional painters have spray equipment and scaffolding that produces better results faster. The cost difference between DIY and professional often narrows when you factor in pole rental, the physical demands, and the time required for challenging high work.

Need help finding a professional painter for high ceiling work? New Brunswick Painting can match you with experienced contractors who specialize in challenging interior projects.

Q3

How do I use an online paint calculator to accurately estimate how many gallons I need for a full interior repaint in my Moncton home?

Online paint calculators are helpful starting points, but they require careful input and NB-specific adjustments to give accurate estimates for your Moncton home interior project.

Most paint calculators work by multiplying your wall square footage by the paint's coverage rate (typically 350-400 square feet per gallon), then factoring in the number of coats. However, these tools often underestimate real-world needs because they assume ideal conditions that rarely exist in actual homes.

Start with accurate measurements of each room you're painting. Measure wall length and height, multiply to get square footage, then subtract windows and doors (typically 20 square feet per standard door, 15 square feet per average window). For rooms with vaulted ceilings, sloped walls, or complex layouts common in older Moncton homes, break the space into sections and calculate each separately. Don't forget to include closet interiors if you're painting those too.

Input the right surface information into the calculator. Smooth drywall typically gets 400 square feet per gallon coverage, while textured walls (common in 1980s-90s Moncton homes) may only get 300-350 square feet per gallon due to the increased surface area. If you're painting over a dark colour with a lighter one, or covering stained areas, you'll need primer plus two finish coats rather than just two coats of paint.

Add 15-20% to the calculator's estimate for real-world factors. Paint gets absorbed differently by various surfaces, you'll have waste from roller loading and brush cleanup, and you'll want extra for future touch-ups. In older Moncton homes with horsehair plaster walls (pre-1950s construction), add an extra 25% because plaster is more porous than modern drywall and drinks up more paint on the first coat.

Account for NB's winter painting advantages when planning your project. Moncton homes with forced-air heating become very dry in winter (below 30% humidity), which actually helps paint dry faster and level better than summer's higher humidity. However, this dry air can cause paint to set up quickly on your roller, so work in smaller sections and keep a wet edge to avoid lap marks.

Consider your paint quality when using calculators. Premium paints like Benjamin Moore Regal or Sherwin-Williams Duration often have better coverage and may stretch further than the calculator suggests, while budget paints may require an extra coat to achieve full coverage and uniform colour. For a whole-house interior repaint in Moncton, investing in quality paint typically means better coverage, easier application, and longer-lasting results.

Don't forget trim, doors, and ceilings in your calculations. Many online calculators focus only on walls, but trim paint (semi-gloss or satin) and ceiling paint (flat white) are separate purchases. A typical 1,500 square foot Moncton home needs 2-3 gallons of trim paint and 3-4 gallons of ceiling paint in addition to the wall paint.

When to hire a professional: If your calculations show you need more than 15-20 gallons total, or if you're dealing with multiple colours, complex layouts, or older home challenges like wallpaper removal, consider getting quotes from local painters. Professional painters buy paint at contractor pricing and have the experience to estimate accurately, often making the cost difference smaller than expected.

Need help finding a professional painter for an accurate in-home estimate? New Brunswick Painting can match you with experienced local contractors who know Moncton homes and can provide detailed material estimates for your specific project.

What is the difference between a China bristle brush and a synthetic brush and which is better for latex paint in NB?

Synthetic brushes are significantly better for latex paint in New Brunswick's climate, while China bristle (natural hog hair) brushes are designed for oil-based paints and perform poorly with water-based latex.

The fundamental difference lies in how these bristle types react to water. **China bristle brushes absorb water from latex paint, causing the natural hairs to swell, lose their shape, and become limp and uncontrollable.** This makes it nearly impossible to achieve smooth, even coverage with latex paint. The swollen bristles also hold excessive paint, leading to drips and uneven application — particularly problematic when you're working in NB's humid summer conditions where latex paint already dries more slowly.

Synthetic brushes, made from nylon, polyester, or nylon-polyester blends, maintain their shape and stiffness when wet. They're specifically engineered for water-based paints like latex. The synthetic bristles have flagged (split) tips that hold the right amount of paint and release it smoothly, giving you better control and a more professional finish. In NB's variable humidity — from bone-dry winter interiors to 80% summer humidity — synthetic brushes perform consistently with latex paint regardless of conditions.

For New Brunswick painting projects, choose synthetic brushes for all latex applications: interior walls, ceilings, exterior siding, trim work with latex paint, and deck staining with water-based stains. The flagged synthetic bristles are particularly important for exterior work on NB's common clapboard siding and cedar shingles, where smooth paint flow and even coverage are essential for weather protection.

China bristle brushes excel only with oil-based products — oil primers, alkyd trim paints, oil-based stains, and traditional oil house paints. The natural bristles don't absorb oil, so they maintain their shape and provide excellent control with these products. However, oil-based paints are rarely used for exterior work in NB anymore due to their poor flexibility in freeze-thaw cycles.

Quality matters significantly with synthetic brushes. Invest in good brands like Purdy, Wooster, or Corona — expect to pay \$15-35 for a quality 2.5-3 inch synthetic brush. Cheap synthetic brushes shed bristles, leave brush marks, and don't hold paint properly. For interior latex work, look for a nylon-polyester blend with flagged tips. For exterior latex, choose a slightly stiffer synthetic brush that can work paint into the grain of wood siding.

When to hire a professional: While brush selection seems simple, achieving professional-quality results with any brush requires proper technique, surface preparation, and understanding how paint behaves in NB's climate. For large exterior projects or kitchen cabinets where the finish quality is critical, professional painters have the experience and spray equipment to deliver superior results regardless of brush type.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q5

How do I use a caulking gun and what tip size is best for sealing gaps between trim and walls before painting in my NB home?

Using a caulking gun properly is essential for achieving professional-looking trim work before painting. For gaps between trim and walls in most NB homes, a 1/8-inch (3mm) bead is ideal — large enough to fill typical gaps but small enough to tool smoothly without excess squeeze-out.

Loading and preparing your caulking gun starts with cutting the cartridge tip at a 45-degree angle. For interior trim work, cut the tip to create a 1/8-inch opening — you can always cut it larger if needed, but you can't make it smaller. Pierce the inner seal with a long nail or the wire cutter built into most caulking guns. Load the cartridge into the gun with the plunger rod pulled back, then advance the rod until it contacts the cartridge base. Test on scrap material first to get a feel for the pressure needed.

The key to smooth caulking is consistent pressure and steady movement. Hold the gun at a 45-degree angle to the joint, squeeze the trigger steadily while moving along the gap at a consistent speed — about one foot every 3-4 seconds. Keep the tip in contact with both surfaces (trim and wall) as you move. In older NB homes with settling and seasonal movement, gaps can vary in width, so adjust your speed accordingly — slower for wider gaps, faster for narrow ones. Release trigger pressure and pull the rod back slightly at the end of each run to stop the flow immediately.

Tooling the caulk bead immediately after application creates the smooth, professional finish that makes trim look built-in rather than added on. Use your finger, a caulk tool, or even a plastic spoon dipped in water to smooth the bead within 2-3 minutes of application. Work in 3-4 foot sections rather than trying to caulk entire walls at once.

In NB's variable humidity, latex caulk can start skinning over quickly in winter's dry indoor air, so don't get ahead of yourself.

For NB homes specifically, use a high-quality paintable acrylic latex caulk that remains flexible through our freeze-thaw cycles. Many older homes in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John have significant seasonal movement, and rigid caulks crack within a year. DAP Alex Plus or Tremco Dymonic 100 are popular choices among NB painters. Avoid using caulk in gaps wider than 1/4 inch — these need backer rod or wood filler first. Also, don't caulk the bottom edge of baseboards to the floor — this joint needs to move and breathe.

When to hire a professional: While caulking seems simple, achieving consistently smooth, straight lines takes practice. If you're painting an entire home's trim or have complex crown molding, consider having a professional painter handle both the caulking and painting — the time savings and superior finish quality often justify the cost, especially in formal living areas where imperfections are highly visible.

Find local painting contractors through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory if you'd prefer professional results on your trim work.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q6

What is the difference between a woven and knit roller cover and which gives a smoother finish on smooth drywall in NB?

Woven roller covers give a significantly smoother finish on smooth drywall compared to knit covers. The construction method creates different surface textures that directly impact your final paint appearance.

Woven roller covers are made by weaving fibers together in a tight, uniform pattern, similar to fabric. This creates a denser, more compact surface with shorter, more controlled fibers. When you roll paint onto smooth drywall, woven covers release paint more evenly and leave minimal texture marks. The tight weave prevents the fibers from splaying out or creating random patterns in the wet paint.

Knit roller covers are constructed by knitting loops of fiber together, creating a more open, textured surface with longer, looser fibers. While knit covers hold more paint (great for coverage), those loose fibers create a slightly stippled or textured finish as they drag across the surface. On smooth drywall, this shows up as a subtle but noticeable texture pattern that many homeowners find undesirable.

For NB homes with smooth drywall walls — which includes most modern construction and renovated older homes — choose a woven roller cover with a 10mm (3/8 inch) nap. This combination gives you the smoothest possible finish while still providing adequate paint pickup. Popular brands available at NB paint stores include Purdy White Dove (woven) and Wooster Pro/Doo-Z (woven). Expect to pay \$8-15 for a quality woven cover versus \$4-8 for basic knit covers, but the finish quality difference is dramatic.

In NB's dry winter conditions (ideal for interior painting), woven covers work exceptionally well because the low humidity allows the paint to level out smoothly before drying. During humid summer months, work in smaller sections and maintain good ventilation to prevent the paint from setting before it can self-level.

When knit covers make sense: Use knit covers on textured drywall, stipple ceilings, or rough surfaces where you want maximum paint capacity and the texture won't show. For smooth walls, trim, and doors where finish quality matters most, always choose woven.

The investment in a quality woven roller cover pays off immediately in reduced brush marks, fewer touch-ups, and a professional-looking finish that you'll appreciate every time you look at the walls.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

How do I clean an airless paint sprayer after using it for exterior painting on my New Brunswick home?

Proper cleaning immediately after use is critical for airless sprayer longevity — dried paint in the system will ruin pumps, hoses, and spray tips that cost hundreds to replace. Start cleaning within 30 minutes of finishing your exterior painting project, as latex paint begins to set up quickly in NB's variable humidity conditions.

For latex exterior paint cleanup, begin by spraying any remaining paint back into the original container — don't waste good paint. Next, fill a bucket with warm water and run clean water through the entire system until it sprays clear. This typically takes 2-3 gallons of water for a standard airless unit. The key is getting every trace of paint out of the pump, hose, gun, and tip before it has a chance to dry and harden.

The cleaning process requires reversing the paint flow. Remove the spray tip and tip guard, then place the siphon tube into your water bucket. Run the sprayer on low pressure to pull clean water through the system, flushing from the intake side. Watch the water coming out of the gun — it should run completely clear with no paint residue. Pay special attention to the gun filter and tip, which trap paint particles and need thorough rinsing.

For oil-based paints or stains (common for deck staining and trim work in NB), you'll need mineral spirits or paint thinner instead of water. Oil-based products don't clean up with water and will separate, leaving a sticky residue throughout your system. Use the same flushing process but with the appropriate solvent — expect to use 1-2 quarts of mineral spirits for a complete cleanup.

After flushing with cleaning solution, always run a final rinse of clean water (for latex) or mineral spirits (for oil-based) through the system. Then spray a small amount of pump armor or lightweight machine oil through the system if you're storing the sprayer for more than a few days. This prevents seals from drying out during NB's dry winter months when the sprayer sits unused.

Clean the spray tip and guard separately by soaking in the appropriate cleaner and using a soft brush to remove any paint buildup. Never use metal tools or needles to clean spray tips — this damages the precision opening and creates uneven spray patterns. Replace tips that are worn or damaged rather than trying to repair them.

Proper storage is crucial in NB's climate. Store your cleaned sprayer in a heated space during winter months, as freezing temperatures can damage seals and pumps even when properly cleaned. Any residual moisture in the system will freeze and expand, potentially cracking internal components.

When to hire a professional: If you're uncomfortable with the cleaning process or don't have proper ventilation for solvent cleanup, many NB painting contractors offer sprayer rental with cleaning included. For large exterior projects on two-storey homes, professional painters have the experience and equipment to complete the work

efficiently within our short exterior painting season while properly maintaining their equipment.

Need help finding a professional painter for your next exterior project? New Brunswick Painting can match you with experienced contractors who have their own professional-grade equipment and know how to maintain it properly.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q8

What is the best paintbrush brand and type for cutting in around trim in a New Brunswick home?

For cutting in around trim, the best brushes available in New Brunswick are Purdy XL Glide (2.5 inch angled sash) and Wooster Shortcut — both are professional-grade brushes that give clean, sharp lines and hold an edge beautifully with latex paint. The right brush makes the single biggest difference in cut-in quality, and it is the one place in a painting project where spending \$20-30 on a quality brush versus \$8 on a discount brush is completely worth it.

The key is an **angled sash brush**, also called a cutting brush or trim brush, with a chiselled tip. The angled bristle end allows you to ride the edge of trim with precision, feather the paint smoothly into the wall, and see exactly where the paint is landing. A 2.5 inch angled sash is the most versatile size for cutting in along baseboards, door casings, window trim, and crown moulding in a typical NB home. Go down to a 2 inch brush for detailed trim work or narrow casings, and up to a 3 inch if you are cutting in along large flat surfaces like above wide baseboards.

Synthetic bristles are the right choice for modern latex and acrylic paints, which is what almost every NB homeowner is using today. Natural bristle brushes (China bristle) are for oil-based paints only — water makes natural bristles swell and go limp, ruining the tip. Look for nylon-polyester blend bristles — Purdy uses their own

proprietary Chinex material, and Wooster uses Nylox blends. Both hold a razor-sharp edge, carry enough paint to cut several feet of line without dipping, and release paint smoothly without dragging.

Purdy XL Glide is the go-to brush for many NB professional painters cutting in with premium latex paints. The Glide series has a very fine-tipped angled end that makes clean lines almost effortless once you develop your technique. **Wooster Shortcut** is a curved-handle angled brush that some painters swear by for ceiling cuts and overhead trim because the handle angle reduces wrist fatigue on long cutting sessions. Both brands are available at paint specialty stores in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John, and at most hardware stores.

For cutting in, **how you load the brush matters as much as the brush itself**. Dip about one-third of the bristle length into the paint — not half, not all the way to the ferrule. Tap the brush gently against the inside of the can (do not wipe on the rim, which removes too much paint). Then use the tips of the bristles to ride lightly along the trim edge, maintaining consistent pressure. The paint should flow off the tip, not be pressed on with the body of the brush.

Clean your brush properly after every use. Rinse thoroughly with warm water until the water runs completely clear — this takes longer than most people expect, often 5-10 minutes of steady rinsing. Reshape the bristles with your fingers and hang the brush bristle-down to dry, or lay flat. A well-maintained Purdy or Wooster brush will last years and pay for itself many times over in clean lines and time saved.

When to hire a pro: Cutting in is a skill that takes practice. If you are uncomfortable with a steady hand around freshly painted trim, consider hiring a professional painter to do the cut-in work while you handle rolling — many NB painters will do partial-day work for specific rooms or tasks.

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

- Expressions Painting
- moose luxury painting
- M And M Painting
- Gionetterenovations
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q9

What roller nap thickness should I use for different surfaces when painting walls and ceilings?

Roller nap thickness — also called pile or nap length — is matched to surface texture: smooth surfaces need short nap (6-10mm), standard drywall walls need 10mm (3/8 inch), and rough or textured exterior surfaces need 15-20mm (5/8 to 3/4 inch). Getting this right is one of those small details that separates a professional-looking result from a frustrating, uneven one.

Smooth surfaces — cabinets, interior doors, trim, and furniture — need a 6mm (1/4 inch) micro-fibre roller or foam roller. The short, tight nap lays paint on smoothly without adding texture. Even a small amount of extra nap on a cabinet door will leave a stippled orange-peel texture you will see every time light catches the surface. If you are rolling trim or cabinet doors and want a near-spray finish, a 4mm foam roller is the right tool.

Standard interior walls — drywall, plaster, and previously painted surfaces in good condition — are best covered with a 10mm (3/8 inch) nap. This is the most common roller in NB painters' kits, and it works well for flat, eggshell, and satin latex paints on most residential walls. It holds enough paint to cover efficiently without depositing so much texture that the wall looks rough. If your walls have light texture (common in many 1980s-1990s NB homes with a light knockdown or orange-peel finish from the builder), a 12-13mm roller gives a little extra paint to fill the valleys.

Ceilings — especially stippled or acoustic ceilings common in NB homes — need at least a 15mm (5/8 inch) nap, and sometimes 18-20mm for heavily textured stipple. A short-nap roller on a stippled ceiling barely touches the raised peaks without filling the valleys, leaving an uneven, streaky finish. The longer nap presses deep into the texture for full coverage. Be prepared for more spatter with longer nap on ceilings — use a good drop cloth and wear a hat.

Exterior surfaces — clapboard siding, cedar shingles, rough-sawn wood, concrete block — need a 18-20mm (3/4 inch) nap to push paint into the irregular surface. NB clapboard siding especially has grooves, laps, and rough wood that swallow paint quickly. A short nap roller will skim the surface without penetrating into gaps, leaving bare wood in crevices that will allow moisture infiltration and paint failure within a season or two.

Always buy roller covers that match your paint type. Cheaper polyester covers work adequately for latex paints. For alkyd or oil-based paints (now rare for interior use but still used for trim in some older NB homes), use a lambswool or natural cover. Many paint stores in Moncton and Fredericton stock Purdy and Wooster roller covers — these hold more paint, shed less lint, and give a more uniform texture than budget covers.

When to hire a pro: If you are painting ceilings with stipple or other texture, getting the roller nap right is critical for even coverage. Professional painters often have an extensive selection of roller covers and know which works best for each surface — their experience with NB housing stock across different construction eras makes a real difference in the final result.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

How do I cut in around ceilings and trim without using painters tape?

Cutting in freehand — without tape — is the technique professional painters use on the job because it is faster, gives a sharper line once mastered, and avoids the bleed-through issues that tape can cause on rough or textured surfaces. The key is using the right brush, the right paint loading technique, and a steady, controlled stroke.

The essential tool is a quality **2.5 inch angled sash brush** — Purdy XL or Wooster Alpha are favourites among NB painters. The angled tip is what makes freehand cutting possible: you ride the very tip of the bristles along the edge of the trim or ceiling line, letting the angle guide the paint precisely where you want it. A flat or square-ended brush gives you no control over where the edge lands.

Load the brush correctly. Dip just the bottom third of the bristles into the paint — not to the ferrule — and tap (do not wipe) against the inside of the can. You want the brush loaded with paint but not dripping. Starting about 1-2 centimetres away from the edge, paint a short parallel stroke, then carefully work the bristle tips right up to the trim or ceiling line. Think of it as two motions: a loading stroke parallel to the edge, then a precise edge stroke guiding the tips right to the line.

The brush angle is everything. Hold the brush at roughly 45 degrees to the surface, with the heel of the brush raised and only the very tip touching. Dragging the brush with the tip right at the edge of the trim allows the angled bristles to naturally follow the line. Move slowly and steadily — rushing causes the brush to bounce off the surface unevenly. Most experienced painters can cut a perfectly straight line at 30-40 centimetres per pass once they find their rhythm.

In a typical NB home with wood trim, baseboards, and either plaster or drywall walls, cutting in freehand actually works better than tape against certain surfaces. **Tape bleeds on textured walls**, drips under on ceiling stipple, and pulls off texture or paint on older plaster walls common in Saint John and Fredericton homes — all problems that freehand cutting avoids entirely.

Practice on the less visible sections first. Start in a closet or behind a door where mistakes are hidden. After cutting in a room or two, your hand steadiness and brush feel improve dramatically. Most people who say they cannot cut in straight have simply not yet spent the 15-20 hours of practice it takes to build the muscle memory. Professional painters cut in consistently because they do it every single day.

A useful trick for ceiling cuts: roll the ceiling colour first, cutting in to within 5-10 centimetres of the wall. Then when you roll or cut in the wall colour, you overlap that ceiling line cleanly. Because both surfaces are fresh and both are applying similar sheens, minor imperfections in the ceiling line become invisible after the wall colour is applied.

When to hire a pro: Freehand cutting is a skill that comes with practice. If you are doing a large open-plan living area in your NB home with high ceilings, cathedral walls, or tight-profile trim work, a professional painter will do the cut-in work cleaner and faster than most homeowners. For smaller rooms — bedrooms, bathrooms — the learning curve is manageable and tape is a perfectly acceptable alternative while you develop your technique.

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.

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q11

Should I use an airless sprayer or brush and roller for painting interior walls in my NB home?

For most NB homeowners painting their own interior walls, brush and roller is the right choice — it is more forgiving, requires far less prep work, and produces excellent results on typical wall surfaces. An airless sprayer is faster in professional hands but demands extensive masking, creates significant overspray, and has a steep learning curve.

Brush and roller advantages are significant for a typical Moncton or Fredericton home interior. A quality 10mm (3/8-inch) nap roller covers wall surfaces quickly, while a good angled sash brush (Purdy or Wooster) lets you cut in cleanly at ceilings, corners, and baseboards. The combination is forgiving — if you get a drip, you catch it. With an airless sprayer, overspray hits ceilings, trim, floors, and furniture the moment you pull the trigger.

When an airless sprayer makes sense is mainly in professional hands on large, empty spaces — new construction before trim is installed, commercial spaces, or a whole-house repaint where every room is cleared out. Even pros often spray-and-back-roll interior walls for the best of both worlds.

In older NB homes with wide baseboards, deep window casings, and ornate trim, interior walls are genuinely easier to paint by hand. Rolling walls and brushing trim gives you control over every surface.

For a DIY interior project, invest in quality tools and a premium latex interior paint like Benjamin Moore Regal Select or Sherwin-Williams Emerald (\$55-75/gallon) — the better the paint, the better it levels and covers.

Hire a pro if you want spray-finished cabinets, need to repaint an entire house quickly, or are dealing with a textured ceiling.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q12

What is back-rolling and should I always do it after spraying paint on walls?

Back-rolling means following a spray application immediately with a dry or lightly loaded roller to press the atomised paint into the surface, remove any sags or uneven texture, and improve adhesion — and yes, you should almost always back-roll interior spray applications on walls and ceilings. It adds a small amount of time but dramatically improves the quality and longevity of the finish.

When an airless sprayer deposits paint on a wall, the atomised droplets land on the surface but sit slightly on top of it rather than being physically pressed in. On smooth new drywall that has been properly primed, a sprayed coat can look excellent on its own. But on real-world surfaces — previously painted walls with minor texture variation, plaster in older NB homes, walls with skim-coated patches, or any surface with slight porosity variation — spray-only coats can look uneven in certain light angles, show textural inconsistencies, and may have slightly reduced adhesion compared to a rolled coat.

Back-rolling works like this: one person sprays a section of wall (typically 1-2 metre wide passes), while a second person follows immediately behind with a clean, dry roller — usually a 10mm nap for smooth interior walls — rolling over the freshly sprayed surface in a light W-pattern. The roller presses the paint into the surface uniformly, eliminates any spray texture variation, and helps the coating bond mechanically to the substrate. It also spreads any sags or drips before they can set. The spray loads the surface quickly; the roller perfects the finish.

On textured interior surfaces — which are extremely common in NB homes built in the 1980s and 1990s with a light stipple, orange-peel, or knockdown texture — back-rolling is especially important. Without it, the sprayed paint tends to catch the high points of the texture and leave the recessed areas slightly thin. A back-roller with a 12-15mm nap pushes paint down into the texture valleys for complete, uniform coverage.

When back-rolling is less critical: spraying bare, smooth primer-sealer on new drywall before sanding is one case where back-rolling adds less value. Similarly, spraying clear topcoats on wood trim or cabinetry in a spray booth environment (controlled temperature, no dust) is typically done without back-rolling to preserve the smoothest possible film. But for any painted wall surface in a residential NB home, back-roll as standard practice.

For DIYers using a rented airless sprayer, the two-person setup for spray-and-back-roll requires either a partner or a different approach: spray one section, immediately set down the gun, pick up the roller, and back-roll before the paint begins to tack. In NB's dry winter interiors, you have a window of 3-5 minutes before latex paint starts to set — workable for a solo painter if sections are kept small. In humid summer conditions, you have a bit more time as the paint dries more slowly.

When to hire a pro: A professional two-person painting crew with a sprayer and back-roller is the most efficient and highest-quality approach for painting large wall areas in a NB home. They have the equipment, technique, and teamwork to work through a house systematically — and back-rolling is standard practice for professional painting companies that care about the quality and durability of their work.

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

- Expressions Painting
- M And M Painting
- Gionetterenovations
- moose luxury painting
- Thirty Four Renovations

[View all contractors ?](#)

How do I avoid roller marks and streaks when painting large wall areas in my Moncton home?

Roller marks and streaks almost always come from one of four causes: a dry roller, wrong nap thickness, paint that is drying too fast, or not maintaining a wet edge — and all four are completely avoidable with the right technique. Large walls in Moncton homes, especially open-plan living areas and long hallways, are the most challenging because you have more surface to cover before the paint begins to tack.

Start with a properly loaded roller. Pour paint into your tray and work the roller through the paint several times, then roll it back and forth on the ribbed tray ramp to distribute the paint evenly through the nap and remove drips. A fully loaded but not dripping roller is what you are after. Many first-time painters either under-load the roller — causing it to drag and leave marks — or over-load it, causing runs and uneven heavy patches. If the roller skips or you hear a sticky dragging sound, it is too dry. Re-load more frequently than you think you need to.

The W-pattern technique is essential for large walls. Apply paint in a wide W or M shape covering about 1 square metre, then without re-loading the roller, fill in the W with horizontal strokes, keeping the roller moving to spread the paint evenly. Finish each section with light, upward strokes from floor to ceiling — these final laying-off strokes blend the edges and eliminate track marks. Always keep your final strokes going in the same direction.

Maintaining a wet edge is the most important habit for eliminating lap marks and streaks on large walls.

Work in sections no wider than you can comfortably reach, and always start your next section while the edge of the previous section is still wet. If you take too long a break or work in too large a section, the paint at the edge starts to dry and when you roll into it, you get a visible overlap line. In Moncton's summer humidity, you have more time before edges dry — but in dry winter conditions with your furnace running, edges can start to tack in 10-15 minutes, so work efficiently.

Use quality paint with good open time. Premium paints like Benjamin Moore Regal Select or Sherwin-Williams Emerald stay wet longer (better open time) than budget paints, which is especially helpful on large Moncton living rooms and open-plan spaces. Some NB painters add a small amount of Floetrol (a latex paint conditioner, about 60-100mL per gallon) to slow drying time slightly and improve levelling — this can reduce stipple texture from the roller and help the paint self-level over large surfaces.

Room temperature matters too. Painting in a room above 25°C causes paint to dry so fast that roller marks set before you can work them out. In summer, paint in the early morning when the house is cooler, or close blinds and use a fan to keep temperatures moderate. Below 10°C is too cold even for interior painting — the paint thickens and does not roll evenly.

When to hire a pro: Open-plan spaces with cathedral ceilings, split levels, or very long accent walls in Moncton new builds are challenging for DIYers. Professional painters work quickly enough to cover large wall sections before edges dry, and they have the technique to eliminate roller marks consistently. If you are repainting a main living area and want a result you will be happy with every day, a professional is worth the investment.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q14

What painters tape is best for clean lines and how long can I leave it on before removing?

For clean lines on interior walls and trim, FrogTape Multi-Surface (green) gives the sharpest edges of any tape available in NB hardware stores — its paint-blocking technology seals the edge against bleeding far better than standard blue tape. Remove it while the paint is still slightly tacky — ideally 1-4 hours after your final coat — rather than waiting until the paint is fully cured.

Most homeowners reach for the familiar blue 3M ScotchBlue painter's tape, which is a solid general-purpose tape and widely available at every hardware store in Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John. ScotchBlue Delicate (the lighter blue, with purple or yellow labelling) is specifically designed for delicate surfaces — freshly painted walls, wallpaper, and older plaster — where standard adhesive tape might pull off the existing finish. For most standard interior wall-to-trim cuts, ScotchBlue works fine.

FrogTape Multi-Surface is the step up that most painting professionals reach for when a genuinely clean edge is critical — an accent wall meeting white trim, a two-tone colour division on a wall, or painting a straight line on a ceiling. FrogTape uses a patented PaintBlock technology: the adhesive contains a polymer that reacts to the moisture in wet paint and swells to seal the tape edge, physically blocking paint from seeping underneath. The

result is a noticeably crisper line. It costs roughly twice what blue tape costs, but on the surfaces and edges that matter, it is worth it.

How long to leave tape on is where many people get it wrong. The common mistake is leaving tape on until the paint is fully cured — 24-48 hours — and then pulling it off in a long strip. By that point, the paint film has bonded across the tape edge and pulling the tape lifts the paint with it, tearing a ragged edge instead of a clean one. The correct technique is to remove tape while the final coat is still slightly tacky — **the ideal window is roughly 1-4 hours after application for most latex paints** in typical NB interior conditions.

Removing tape correctly matters as much as timing. Pull the tape back at a 45-degree angle, slowly and steadily, peeling it back over itself rather than pulling it straight out from the wall. This shear motion cuts the paint film cleanly at the tape edge instead of tearing it. If you feel resistance or see the paint starting to pull, use a utility knife to score lightly along the tape edge before peeling — this separates the paint film cleanly and prevents any tearing.

NB climate note: In dry winter interiors with forced-air heat, latex paint dries very quickly — your 1-4 hour removal window might be closer to 45-90 minutes because the paint is already nearly dry. In humid summer conditions in an older Moncton or Saint John home without air conditioning, the paint stays tacky longer and you have more flexibility. Touch the painted surface gently with a fingertip near the tape edge — if it feels tacky but does not transfer to your finger, it is in the ideal removal window.

When to hire a pro: For complex taping situations — stripes, geometric patterns, multiple colour divisions on a single wall, or heritage trim with irregular profiles that tape does not seal perfectly — a professional painter with freehand cutting skills will often get a cleaner result than even the best tape job.

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

- Expressions Painting
- M And M Painting
- moose luxury painting
- Worry No More Handyman Services
- Loves Painting Ltd.

[View all contractors ?](#)

How do I use a paint edging tool versus cutting in freehand with a brush?

Paint edging tools — the plastic-wheeled pad applicators you find at hardware stores — are convenient for beginners but rarely produce as clean or fast a line as freehand cutting with a good angled sash brush once you have practised. They are worth understanding, though, because for certain specific situations they are genuinely useful.

A paint edger (the most common version is a flat pad with a row of small guide wheels along one edge, sometimes called an Edger Pad or Cut-In Tool) works by running the guide wheels along the trim or ceiling while the paint-loaded pad transfers paint to the wall surface. The wheels are designed to keep the pad at a consistent distance from the trim, theoretically producing a straight edge without requiring a steady hand.

The reality is that edging tools work reasonably well on flat, smooth surfaces — a freshly painted baseboard meeting a smooth wall, or a flat ceiling line meeting a smooth flat wall. On real-world NB homes, however, surfaces are rarely perfectly flat. Older plaster walls in Fredericton and Saint John have slight waves and undulations. Baseboards have a slight gap or an irregular profile where they meet the wall. Ceilings have a texture or a slight radius where the wall meets the flat ceiling plane. In all these cases, the edger wheels cannot ride a consistent surface and the pad wanders, producing a wavy, inconsistent edge that has to be corrected anyway with a brush.

Paint edgers load unevenly compared to a brush, and they tend to deposit too much paint at the edge (where the pad presses) and too little at the back of the pad, creating a thick paint line right at the trim that is visible under certain lighting. This is the telltale sign of an edger versus a properly cut-in brush line. Edgers also require reloading very frequently — every 30-60 centimetres on most surfaces — which slows you down compared to a properly loaded brush that can cut 60-90 centimetres per pass.

Where edgers are genuinely useful: A good edger works well for cutting a wall colour along a carpet line at the floor when you cannot tape the carpet (which can be difficult to mask evenly). It is also useful for reaching into tight ceiling corners on very smooth, flat ceilings where the pad can ride the corner angle precisely. For someone with very unsteady hands who struggles with freehand cutting, an edger provides some guidance that can reduce the margin of error.

Freehand brush cutting will almost always produce a sharper, more consistent result once you develop the technique. A quality 2.5 inch angled sash brush (Purdy XL Glide or Wooster Alpha are favourites of NB painters) loaded correctly and guided with a steady hand produces a clean, uniform edge that professional painters achieve room after room, day after day. The technique takes practice — most people need to paint 3-5 rooms before their freehand lines are consistently tight — but the investment in skill pays off in every painting project from that point on.

When to hire a pro: If you are doing a large colour change project, painting multiple rooms, or working with a challenging colour transition like a dark accent wall meeting white trim, a professional painter's freehand cutting ability is one of the most visible differences between professional and DIY results. For a single small room or a simple touch-up, either an edger or careful taping is a perfectly reasonable approach.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

What is the proper technique for loading a paint roller for even coverage?

Loading a paint roller properly — distributing paint evenly through the nap before it touches your wall — is the foundation of every smooth, streak-free paint job, and most DIY painting problems trace back to a roller that is either over-loaded with dripping wet paint or under-loaded and dragging dry on the surface. The correct technique takes about 60 seconds but transforms your results.

Start with a quality roller tray — not a flimsy disposable one that flexes and tips, but a sturdy metal or thick plastic tray. Pour paint into the deep well of the tray until it is roughly one-third full. This keeps the ribbed ramp area dry and gives you a consistent working depth of paint in the well.

Loading the roller: Dip the roller into the paint well, submerging the nap fully — not just the bottom, but rolling it in the paint so the entire cover is saturated. Then roll it onto the ribbed ramp section of the tray, using back-and-forth strokes on the ramp to work the paint evenly through the nap. The ramp removes excess paint and distributes what remains uniformly through the entire roller cover. Do this 3-4 times: dip into the well, roll on the ramp, dip, roll again. You are finished loading when the roller rolls smoothly on the ramp without dripping and the nap looks uniformly saturated — not shiny wet, not dry on any side.

The most common mistakes: Over-loading leaves the roller so heavy with paint that it drips on the floor and sprays when it spins, creating spatter on your ceilings and trim. Under-loading causes the roller to stick, drag, and squeak on the wall — the sticky dragging sound means you need more paint. If paint is flinging off the roller as you work, you have too much; if the roller skips or you hear a sticky sound, load it more.

On the wall: Apply paint in a large W or M shape covering roughly one square metre without re-loading. This deposits the bulk of the paint across the section. Then, without re-loading, fill in the W with horizontal strokes, spreading the paint evenly across the section. Finish with light, upward strokes (floor to ceiling) to lay off the final surface and blend the section edge into the previous wet section. These final light strokes remove any roller texture variation and create a uniform finish.

Re-load more frequently than you think you need to. Most people under-load the roller and then try to stretch a single load over too large an area. For standard interior latex on a smooth drywall wall in a Moncton home, plan to re-load every square metre or so. The more often you re-load with a properly loaded roller, the easier it is to maintain a wet edge across the wall — which is the key to eliminating lap marks on large surfaces.

Nap saturation takes a moment. When you first start using a new roller cover, it needs a few passes on the tray ramp to fully saturate through the nap. Some painters will prime a new roller by lightly dampening it with water before the first paint load, which speeds up the initial saturation and reduces the chance of dry spots from a brand-

new cover on the first wall section.

When to hire a pro: For large rooms, open-plan living areas, or full-house interior repaints in NB homes, a professional painter develops a rhythm with roller loading and wall application that allows them to cover walls quickly and consistently. If you are attempting a whole-house repaint, consider at minimum consulting with a professional about technique and product choices to set yourself up for success.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q17

How do I clean and store paint brushes and rollers between coats and between painting sessions?

For latex paint, rinse brushes and rollers in warm water immediately after use — never let paint dry in your tools. Proper cleaning between coats takes only a few minutes but extends the life of good brushes considerably, saving you money and giving you better results every time.

Between coats of latex paint, you do not need to fully clean your brush or roller if you are coming back within 1-2 hours. Wrap your brush tightly in plastic wrap or a plastic bag, pressing out any air, and set it horizontally. Do the same for your roller — slip it into a plastic bag and tie it off. This keeps the paint from drying on the bristles or nap during your break. For breaks longer than 2 hours, it is better to do a quick rinse rather than risk the paint stiffening.

For full cleaning between sessions, hold the brush under warm running water and work the paint out from the heel (the thick part where bristles meet the ferrule) outward through the tips. The heel is where most paint builds up and where brushes fail. Use your fingers to flex and separate the bristles. A brush comb or cleaning tool speeds this up significantly. For rollers, use the curved edge of a five-in-one tool to scrape out the bulk of the paint back into the

can before rinsing — this saves water and time. Run the roller under water, working your hand along the nap until the water runs clear.

For oil-based paint or primer, the process is entirely different. You need mineral spirits or paint thinner for oil-based products — water will not work. Swirl the brush in a container of mineral spirits, work the bristles with your fingers, then repeat with fresh mineral spirits until clean. Dispose of used mineral spirits properly — take it to a hazardous waste depot in Moncton, Fredericton, or Saint John rather than pouring it down the drain.

After cleaning any brush, shake out the excess water and reshape the bristles with your fingers. Hang the brush or lay it flat to dry — never stand it on its bristles as this bends them permanently. Store clean, dry brushes in their original protective sleeve or wrap them in paper to hold their shape. A good Purdy or Wooster brush stored properly will last through dozens of painting sessions.

In NB's humid summer months, brushes take longer to dry after washing. Lay them in a well-ventilated spot rather than sealing them in a cabinet while still damp, which can cause bristle mould or a musty smell.

For most interior projects, quality brushes are worth the investment and the cleaning effort. A 0 brush cleaned properly outperforms a cheap brush every single time. Need help finding a professional painter who will bring their own tools and expertise? New Brunswick Painting can match you with local painters through the New Brunswick Construction Network.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q18

What is the W or M technique for rolling paint on walls and does it really matter?

Yes, the W or M technique genuinely matters — it is the difference between patchy, uneven coverage and a smooth, professional-looking finish. Rolling randomly up and down in straight lines leaves lap marks and uneven paint distribution. The W/M technique ensures the paint is spread and blended before it dries.

The technique works like this: load your roller evenly on the tray, then apply the paint to the wall in a large W or M shape covering roughly a 60-90 cm (2-3 foot) square section. Do not press too hard on this initial pass — you are depositing paint on the wall, not spreading it. Then, without reloading the roller, go back over that same section with smooth vertical strokes to fill in and blend the W or M. Finish with a light upward stroke to even everything out. Then move to the adjacent section, slightly overlapping the wet edge of the first section, and repeat.

The key principle behind this is maintaining a "wet edge" — you are always blending new paint into paint that has not yet dried. Rolling in a wet edge prevents the lap marks that appear when you come back to a section that has already started to skin over. In NB's summer months when humidity is high (65-85% on humid days), you have a little more working time because the paint dries more slowly. In a warm, dry NB winter interior, the paint skins faster, so work in slightly smaller sections.

Roller speed matters too. Roll too fast and you create spattering — you will know this the moment you have small paint dots on your face and ceiling. A moderate, steady pace keeps the paint on the wall. Use a slightly longer nap roller (10mm / 3/8 inch for smooth drywall, 15mm / 5/8 inch for textured surfaces) and do not press down hard — let the weight of the roller do the work.

One practical tip for NB homes with older, textured walls (stipple or orange peel texture is very common in houses built in the 1970s-1990s throughout Moncton, Fredericton, and Saint John): use a thicker nap roller, 15-19mm, and do not try to flatten the texture with pressure. Roll gently to get paint into the valleys of the texture and let it sit.

If you are taking on a full room yourself, the W/M technique combined with proper cut-in along the edges will give you results you can be proud of. For large open spaces, high ceilings, or if you want a truly flawless finish, a professional painter will have the sprayer or the well-practiced technique to take it to another level.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

How do I spray paint exterior siding with an airless sprayer on my NB home?

Spraying exterior siding with an airless sprayer is fast and produces excellent coverage, but it requires thorough masking, proper tip selection, and ideal weather conditions — all of which matter even more in New Brunswick's unpredictable Maritime climate. Done right, it cuts painting time dramatically. Done wrong, it creates overspray damage, uneven coats, and a finish that fails early.

Before you even load the sprayer, preparation is everything. Cover all windows, doors, light fixtures, and any surfaces you do not want painted with plastic sheeting and painter's tape. On a typical NB home with wood or vinyl siding, this masking step takes longer than the actual spraying — budget 4-6 hours for a bungalow. Turn off any forced-air HVAC intakes near where you are spraying to prevent overspray from entering the house. Warn neighbours on windy days, as airless sprayers can throw fine mist considerable distances.

Tip selection is critical. For most exterior siding paint (100% acrylic latex), a 515 or 517 tip is standard — the first number (5) refers to the fan width in inches when doubled (a 5 = 10-inch fan), and the second pair (15 or 17) is the orifice size in thousandths of an inch. Thicker paints like elastomeric or solid deck stains need a 619 or 621 tip. Set your pressure high enough to fully atomize the paint but no higher — excess pressure creates excessive overspray and bounce-back. Test on a piece of cardboard first.

NB weather conditions must be respected. Only spray when temperatures are between 10°C and 30°C, wind is below 15 km/h, and there is no rain in the forecast for at least 24-48 hours. The morning window — after the dew has burned off (typically 9 AM) and before the afternoon wind picks up — is the sweet spot during NB's May to October painting season. Never spray in direct hot afternoon sun, as the paint will dry before it can level properly, causing an orange-peel texture.

Hold the sprayer gun 30-40 cm (12-16 inches) from the surface and move in smooth, overlapping horizontal strokes, keeping the gun perpendicular to the wall at all times. Trigger before each pass begins and release after it ends — this avoids heavy spots at the start and finish of each stroke. Overlap each pass by 50% for uniform coverage.

Back-rolling is strongly recommended for first coats on bare or weathered wood siding. Have a helper follow immediately behind with a roller to work the paint into the grain and any surface irregularities. This dramatically improves adhesion and reduces the chance of peeling — critical for NB's freeze-thaw cycle environment.

For most homeowners painting a two-storey NB home, renting the sprayer is straightforward but working safely at height is not. Working from extension ladders with an airless sprayer hose requires experience and a spotter. For full-house exterior spraying above the first storey, hiring a professional painting crew is well worth the investment —

they have the equipment, crew, and experience to complete the work safely and quickly within NB's short exterior season. Get matched with local exterior painters through New Brunswick Painting at no cost.

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

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

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q20

What grit sandpaper should I use between coats of paint on trim and cabinets?

For sanding between coats of paint on trim and cabinets, 220-grit sandpaper is the standard — it is fine enough to smooth without cutting through the paint layer. This step is what separates a truly smooth professional finish from one that looks slightly rough when you look at it from an angle in raking light.

The purpose of sanding between coats is not to remove the previous coat — it is to knock down any raised grain, dust nibs, brush marks, or minor drips that dried in the first coat. When you apply paint to wood, the moisture in the paint raises the grain slightly, creating a rough feel even on previously smooth surfaces. A light pass with 220-grit levels these without removing the paint underneath. Always sand with the grain of the wood on bare or stained wood surfaces.

After sanding, wipe the surface thoroughly with a tack cloth or a lint-free cloth dampened with water (for latex paints) to remove every bit of sanding dust. This step is non-negotiable — even fine sanding dust trapped under the topcoat will create a gritty, dull finish. In NB's dry winter heating season (when indoor humidity drops to 20-30%), dust is more airborne and clings to surfaces, so be especially thorough with the tack cloth wipe-down.

For cabinet painting specifically, the grit progression matters more. On raw or stripped cabinets, start with 120-grit to smooth the surface, then 150-grit to refine, then 220-grit as your pre-prime sand. Between the primer coat and first paint coat, use 220-grit. Between the first and second paint coats, go even finer — 320-grit or 400-grit

gives the silkiest result before the final topcoat. For spray-applied cabinet finishes (which professional painters in NB prefer for cabinets), 320-grit between coats is standard.

For trim and door painting with a brush, 220-grit between coats is sufficient. Use a sanding sponge or a small sanding block — these conform to moulding profiles better than a flat sheet of sandpaper. Avoid power sanders on detailed trim as they remove too much material too quickly. On flat panel doors, a random-orbit sander on a very light setting with 220-grit works well for large flat areas, but use hand sanding in the recesses and edges.

One thing NB homeowners often overlook: if you are painting over old, heavily built-up gloss trim (common in older homes in Saint John and Fredericton's heritage neighbourhoods), start with 150-grit to break the gloss and provide tooth for the primer, then move up to 220-grit after priming. Glossy surfaces without sanding are a primary cause of adhesion failure in trim painting.

If you are refinishing kitchen cabinets and want a truly flawless result, professional painters with spray equipment and a dedicated spray booth environment will get closer to a factory finish than most DIY brush-and-roll approaches can achieve. Browse painting contractors through the New Brunswick Construction Network directory to find cabinet refinishing specialists in your area.

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
- FRS Flooring Solutions

[View all contractors ?](#)

Q21

How do I prevent brush marks when painting trim and doors in my Fredericton home?

Brush marks on trim and doors come down to three things: paint consistency, brush quality, and technique — and all three are fixable. In Fredericton's dry winter heating season, latex paint can dry so quickly that brush

marks freeze in place before the paint has time to level. Knowing how to work with these conditions makes a significant difference.

Start with the right brush. For trim and door painting, you want a high-quality synthetic bristle brush — 2.5 inch (63 mm) for most trim, 3 inch (75 mm) for door panels and wide casings. Purdy XL and Wooster Shortcut are popular among Fredericton and Moncton painters for good reason. Cheap brushes with stiff, uneven bristles drag and leave ridges. A quality brush has flagged (split) tips that hold more paint and lay it down smoothly.

Paint consistency is critical. Straight-from-the-can latex paint is often a little thick for brush work on trim, especially in heated winter rooms. Add a small amount of water — no more than 10% by volume (roughly 250 mL per gallon/litre) — to improve flow and levelling. Better yet, use a paint conditioner like Floetrol for latex paint. Floetrol slows the open time just enough to let the paint level out before it dries, which is especially helpful in Fredericton's dry -20°C winter interiors where latex can skin in minutes.

Technique is everything. Load the brush by dipping about one-third of the bristle length into the paint and tapping (not wiping) gently against the side of the container. Wipe forces air bubbles into the bristles. Apply paint in the direction of the wood grain or panel direction using long, even strokes. Finish each section with a single, very light "tipping off" pass — hold the brush at a low angle to the surface and pull it along in one smooth stroke from end to end. This final pass lays the paint flat and removes brush marks.

Work in manageable sections — paint one panel of a door at a time, one length of baseboard at a time — and tip off before moving on. Going back to fix a section after the paint has started to skin will drag and leave worse marks than if you had left it alone.

Sanding between coats is essential for smooth trim. After the first coat is fully dry (wait at least 24 hours in NB winter interior conditions), lightly sand with 220-grit and wipe with a tack cloth before the second coat. The second coat will look dramatically smoother than the first.

For doors specifically: if you can remove the door from its hinges and lay it flat to paint, you eliminate the biggest enemy of a smooth finish — gravity making paint run. Flat panel doors laid horizontally level themselves beautifully. If you cannot remove the door, work quickly and maintain the wet edge from top to bottom.

If you want that truly perfect, brush-mark-free finish on doors and trim — the kind you see on new construction show homes — professional painters achieve it through spray application followed by light sanding. It is a different level than brush painting. For a kitchen, main entry door, or formal living room in Fredericton where appearance matters, the professional result is worth considering.

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

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

[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 for the latest answers.