

Excerpt from “The Arizona Republic” by Rosie Romero

Exterior Painting:

You don't want to mess around with an exterior paint job in Arizona. The sun does a number on exterior housing materials, especially wood. So you need to protect your home by having it painted regularly with premium paint that can stand up to the sun and monsoon rains.

If you've ever painted your own house, you know it's not a job for amateurs. It requires scraping, sanding, patching, repairing, priming and maybe even some replacing before the first coat of paint touches the surface.

Hiring someone who offers you a sweet deal on a paint job sets you up for wood trim that gets painted without any of that prep. You could wind up with a coat or two of watered-down paint that will look nice for a couple of months and then peel right off because the surface underneath of it wasn't tended to.

And you'll have to have it repainted if you don't want the summer sun to ruin your trim. Again, you wind up paying twice when you don't take the time to check out the contractor you allow to touch your most prized possession—your home.