

PAINTING

Painter

Do you have an eye for colour? Are you good with your hands? Do you like doing precise work? Are you comfortable with heights? Are you creative? Do you have an eye for detail? Then, you could become a painter!

What the work is like

Painters apply paint, wallpaper and other finishes to interior and exterior surfaces.

They are employed by construction companies, painting contractors and building maintenance departments, or they may be self-employed.

Painters work in the new home building and renovation, and institutional and commercial construction sectors.

Your duties

As a painter, your duties may include:

- Applying paint or other materials such as stains, lacquer or varnish using brushes, rollers or spray equipment
- Preparing and cleaning surfaces
- Removing old wallpaper and paint
- Repairing cracks and holes in walls
- Mixing and thinning paint
- Measuring, cutting and applying wallpaper or fabric to walls
- Building and installing scaffolding
- Advising customers on colour selection and choice of wall coverings
- Providing cost estimates
- Reading specifications to determine required materials



Work conditions

The standard work week for painters is 40 hours (8 hours a day, 5 days a week). As with many careers in construction, there are peak periods that will require you to work overtime. The number of additional hours you work each week depends on the construction sector and region you work in, and will vary from one job to the next. If you paint outdoors, your hours will depend on weather conditions. You may work long hours during the warmer months and fewer during winter.

As a painter, you may work indoors or outdoors, alone or with a team of other construction professionals. The work can be physically demanding—you may stand for long periods of time, often with your arms raised over your head.

As with all careers in the construction industry, safety is the top priority. Painters are trained to work safely, and take special precautions to protect themselves from injury.

Building your career

With experience and additional training, you can move into more senior positions, including supervisory roles. Many painters also become self-employed and start up their own small businesses.

As with most careers in the construction industry, your skills are portable. If you want to move, you can take your skills with you.

More information:

Gauteng Master Builders Association

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