

Design Guidelines: Paint

P1 Any exterior painting is encouraged to utilize colors found on the ‘Colors of Historic Corydon’ palette, available from Main Street Corydon or Town offices. However, the unique features of each individual building, including its age, style, materials and surroundings, play an important part in determining which colors are most suitable. Not all of these colors are appropriate for use on every building, or in every location on a building.



The paint scheme used here serves to highlight the wonderful Queen Anne architectural details of the Mitchell-Atwood House without becoming overly busy.

P2 Do not paint masonry buildings or components that were not originally painted. Painting will add a long-term maintenance issue and affect the walls’ ability to ‘breathe.’ Accumulated layers of paint will eventually obscure decorative details.

P3 Research the original colors of your building as a starting point. It is not required that original colors be re-used, but those colors can help to establish a palette of colors from which to choose a new color scheme.

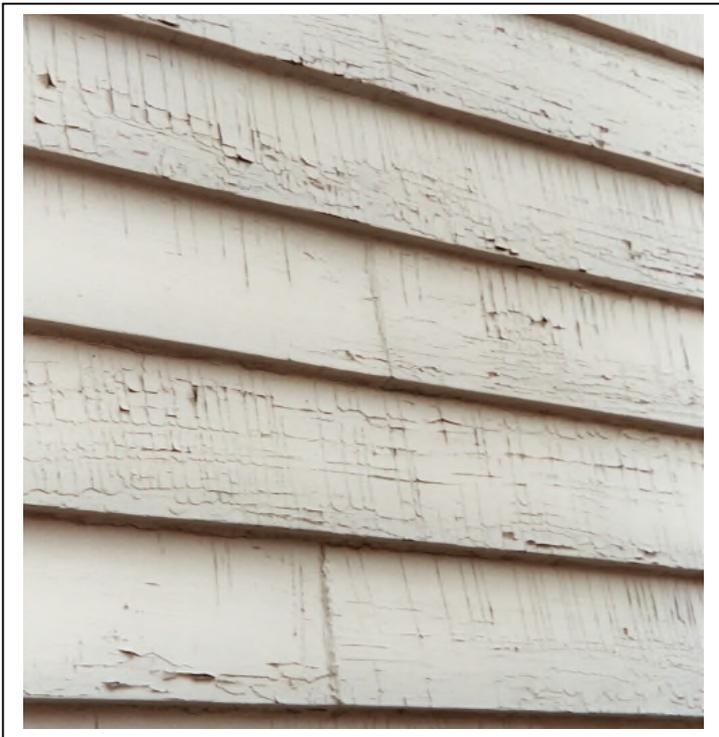
P4 Neighboring buildings will affect and be affected by the color scheme that you select. Look carefully at the surrounding buildings before choosing a color scheme.

P5 Some color decisions may have already been made for you. The color of your foundation and roof, for example, will to some extent limit the palette from which you should choose.

P6 Modern latex paints are much more stable than historic colors, but all coatings fade over time. Certain colors fade faster than others. Blues seem to fade fastest, followed by reds and greens. Tans, grays, and medium greens tend to fade more slowly.

P7 Successful paint schemes typically involve three complementary colors: body, trim and accent. Four colors can also be used successfully, if the fourth color is used sparingly. Resist the urge to fall into the ‘Painted Ladies’ syndrome – there is little historic evidence for the flamboyant color schemes popularized in the book series by that name.

- P8** Accent colors are best used in moderation, to highlight important details.
- P9** Maintain a sound paint film on painted surfaces to preserve historic building fabric.
- P10** Maintain a sound coat of paint or other compatible coating on materials that rust or corrode. Do not apply paint or other coatings to metals that were historically meant to be exposed, such as copper, bronze or stainless steel.



In addition to being unsightly, this cracked and alligatored paint is no longer providing an adequate protective coating for the wood below.

PAINT MAINTENANCE TIPS:

- ★ Undertake a program of routine maintenance to protect painted surfaces and ensure a lasting paint finish. Routinely wash painted surfaces with water and a mild detergent to prevent dirt build-up.
- ★ Prior to repainting, remove all loose or flaking paint down to the first sound paint layer. Use the gentlest means possible when removing old paint prior to repainting.
- ★ Hand scraping and sanding is recommended for wood. Hot-air guns and heat plates are not recommended because of the risk of fire. Test chemical strippers in an inconspicuous area prior to applying to masonry.
- ★ Be aware that paint applied prior to 1978 is likely to contain lead and should be handled accordingly. For more information about lead paint, contact the Health Department.
- ★ Any bare wood should be primed prior to repainting. Priming the back and end grain of new wood will increase the longevity of the paint job. Bare wood surfaces prone to standing water or harsh weather should be treated with water repellent or preservative prior to priming.
- ★ After the application of a primer coat of paint, all seams and joints (excluding the horizontal joints of clapboard) should be caulked. Appropriate metal or wood fillers should be used to fill nail holes, cracks and holes in the surface.
- ★ New paint should be applied to clean, dry surfaces in a manner consistent with the manufacturer's specifications. Good preparation and high-quality paints are the keys to a lasting paint job.