

Bellingham Painting Co.

UPDATED 2026-08-04

Exterior painting in Bellingham, WA

Prices, the weather window, and what to check before you sign

WHAT IT RUNS HERE

Exterior painting in Bellingham, WA runs \$4,200 to \$9,350 for an average home, starting around \$2.75 per square foot of siding. Cedar, two story access, and peeling paint push you toward the top. The reliable dry window here is late June through September, when nights stay warm enough above the dew point for paint to cure. Work carries a 2 year workmanship warranty. Call (360) 383-5454.

Free estimate, written scope

<https://bellingshampaintpros.com/guides/exterior-painting>

(360) 383-5454

START HERE

What matters most

- A full exterior repaint on an average Bellingham home runs \$4,200 to \$9,350, starting at \$2.75 per square foot of siding.
- Bellingham averages about 36 inches of rain a year, 5.4 inches in November against 1.3 in August, so the dependable paint window is late June into September.
- 42.8 percent of Bellingham housing was built before 1980, which puts the EPA lead rule in play on a large share of exterior jobs.
- Benjamin Moore Aura needs 40 degrees F minimum and Sherwin-Williams Duration goes down to 35 degrees F, and the surface has to stay above the dew point for about 48 hours after coating.
- Washington contractors carry a \$30,000 general or \$15,000 specialty bond as of July 1, 2024. Check registration at ProtectMyHome.net before you sign.

THE NUMBERS

Exterior painting price bands in Bellingham, WA

SCOPE	WHAT IT COVERS	BELLINGHAM RANGE
Starting rate	Single story, sound siding, wash plus two coats with light prep	\$2.75 / sq ft
Typical full exterior	Average home: wash, scrape and feather sand, spot prime, caulk, two coats on body and trim	\$4,200 to \$9,350
Pre-paint wash on its own	Low pressure house wash to pull off algae, mildew, and chalk before coating	\$385 to \$825
Deck stained during the same visit	Clean, brighten, and stain a standard deck while the site is already staged	\$770 to \$2,000
Interior added to the same contract	Typical 3 bedroom home, walls, ceilings, and trim	\$4,950 to \$9,900
Commercial or multi-unit exterior	Office, retail, or rental building priced by area	\$2.20 to \$6.60 / sq ft

Prep hours drive the number harder than square footage does. Two houses the same size, one with sound paint and one peeling off two walls, can land at opposite ends of the \$4,200 to \$9,350 band.

What it costs

A full exterior repaint on an average Bellingham home runs \$4,200 to \$9,350, starting at \$2.75 per square foot of siding. Most jobs take 3 to 7 days on site.

- Starting rate: \$2.75 / sq ft
- Typical full exterior: \$4,200 to \$9,350
- Pre-paint wash on its own: \$385 to \$825
- Timeline: 3 to 7 days
- Warranty: 2 years workmanship

The Bellingham weather window

Bellingham averages roughly 36 inches of precipitation a year. November averages 5.4 inches and August 1.3. The dependable exterior window is late June into late September.

- Benjamin Moore Aura minimum: 40 degrees F air and surface
- Sherwin-Williams Duration minimum: 35 degrees F
- Surface must stay above the dew point about 48 hours after coating
- Keep the surface more than 5 degrees F above the dew point

Older Bellingham houses

17 percent of Bellingham housing units were built in 1939 or earlier and 42.8 percent before 1980, so the EPA lead rule applies often. It covers pre-1978 homes once exterior work disturbs more than 20 square feet of paint.

- Firm must hold EPA Lead-Safe certification, valid five years
- Renovate Right pamphlet delivered and signed for before work starts
- No open flame burning, no heat guns above 1,100 degrees F
- No power sanding or grinding without HEPA exhaust

How to read the bid

Two honest bids on the same house can sit at opposite ends of the \$4,200 to \$9,350 band. The difference is prep and coats, and it is usually not spelled out unless you ask.

- Wash method and the dry time before coating
- Scrape and feather sand, or scrape only
- Spot prime versus full prime, and stain blocking primer on cedar
- Coat count stated for body, trim, and doors
- Caulk product and which joints get cut out
- Rot repair priced by hour or unit

Materials that hold up here

Benjamin Moore Aura and Sherwin-Williams Duration are the exterior specifications used on these homes. Both are 100 percent acrylic with mildewcide.

- Aura spreads 250 to 350 sq ft per gallon
- Aura target film: 4.6 to 6.4 wet mils, 2.0 to 2.8 dry mils
- Cedar needs stain blocking primer against tannin bleed
- Trim fasteners: hot dipped galvanized, aluminum, or stainless

Why paint fails in this climate

Sun is not the problem here. Water and skipped prep are.

- Sheet peeling on south and west walls from coating a chalky or damp surface
- Brown tannin weeping through unprimed cedar
- Black mildew returning because it was painted over rather than killed
- Blistering driven by moisture from inside the wall
- Surfactant streaks from coating too late in the day

After the crew leaves

A well prepped Bellingham exterior holds 8 to 12 years on protected walls and 6 to 8 on the south and west sides.

- Wash the north side each spring with mild detergent and a soft brush
- Keep shrubs 18 inches off the siding
- Clear gutters in November and again in March
- Keep a labeled touch up quart indoors
- Recaulk casing joints at the first hairline opening

Check these before you sign an exterior painting bid in Bellingham

- ☐ Contractor registration and bond status confirmed at ProtectMyHome.net or by calling L&I at 1-800-647-0982.
- ☐ EPA Lead-Safe firm certification confirmed if your house was built before 1978.
- ☐ Paint line and sheen written on the contract by product name, not described as premium.
- ☐ Number of finish coats stated separately for body, trim, and doors.
- ☐ Wash method stated as low pressure, with the wait time before coating written down.
- ☐ Prep described as scrape and feather sand, with spot priming called out for bare wood.
- ☐ Stain blocking primer specified if any cedar or redwood is exposed.
- ☐ Caulk product named and the joints to be cut out and replaced identified.
- ☐ Rot repair priced by the hour or by the unit rather than left open.
- ☐ Gallons figured shared on request, and the math checks against 250 to 350 square feet per gallon.
- ☐ Start window that lands between late June and mid September.
- ☐ Warranty term in writing, which here is 2 years on workmanship.

Want a real number for your place?

We walk the job, measure it, and put the scope in writing. Free, and there is no pressure attached.

(360) 383-5454

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Full guide: <https://bellingshampaintpros.com/guides/exterior-painting>

Prices shown are the ranges published on our website at the time of writing and are a starting point, not a quote. Every property is different. Figures update when the site does.