

AS/NZS 2311:2017 – Exterior Painting Checklist

1. Scope & General Requirements

- Confirm standard version (2017, includes Amendment A1).
- Ensure standard is for decorative paint systems, not corrosion protection of steel (AS/NZS 2312).
- Identify climate/exposure category (sunlight, rain, coastal, abrasion).

2. Design for Paintability

- Avoid design features that trap water or obstruct drainage.
- Use materials compatible with coating systems.
- Ensure surfaces are accessible for maintenance.

3. Surface Preparation

- Remove loose paint, contaminants, grease, dirt, salts.
- Repair substrate (cracks, holes, spalled surfaces).
- Clean and cure masonry/concrete; remove efflorescence.
- Ensure correct substrate conditions for timber, metal, etc.
- Prime bare or porous surfaces appropriately.

4. Paint System Selection

- Choose paints compatible with substrate, environment, and service life.
- Follow standard tables for paint types and coating systems.
- Determine number of coats and coverage rates.
- Specify gloss/finish levels, colour, film thickness.

5. Application Methods

- Select method: brush, roll, spray (with back-rolling if needed).
- Mix, thin, and stir paints per manufacturer recommendations.
- Maintain temperature and humidity within limits.
- Apply coats in correct sequence, allowing proper drying time.
- Inspect for uniformity and coverage.

6. Inspection & Testing

- Appoint a competent inspector.
- Define inspection points (before coating, between coats, final).
- Test adhesion, film thickness, coverage.
- Record batch, colour, conditions, dates, defects, and rectifications.

7. Maintenance / Repainting

- Assess existing coatings and causes of failure.
- Specify repainting system layer by layer.
- Include inspection frequency and repair criteria.
- Define protocols for contamination, damage, rework.

8. Health, Safety & Environmental

- Treat all paints as hazardous; use MSDS and PPE.
- Control overspray, ventilation, and waste disposal.
- Address VOC emissions and comply with local regulations.

9. Normal Viewing Positions

- Inspections to be carried out under natural daylight or typical lighting, not oblique or spotlight conditions.
- Surfaces viewed from normal service distance: 1.5–2.0 m for walls and ceilings; 600 mm–1 m for trims and doors.
- High or inaccessible areas viewed from normal ground or service position.
- Minor variations, brush marks, or sheen differences acceptable if not visible at normal distance.
- Closer inspections (under 300 mm) only valid for maintenance or failure analysis, not aesthetic assessment.

10. Unrealistic Touch-Up Requests

- Touch-ups should be limited to legitimate defects visible under normal viewing conditions.
- Requests based on close-up or angled light viewing are not considered valid defects under AS/NZS 2311.
- Minor texture, gloss, or colour variations are acceptable and do not require rework if invisible at normal viewing distance.
- Repainting or touching up small aesthetic imperfections can lead to visual inconsistency and should be avoided.
- Final approval should be based on overall appearance, not microscopic inspection.