

THE 2026 EDITION

The Coeur d'Alene Homeowner's Painting Guide

What every CDA, Hayden, Post Falls, and
Rathdrum
homeowner should know before hiring a
painter.

Published by Coeur d'Alene Premium Painters
(208) 551-1546 · Licensed Idaho RCE · EPA Lead-Safe Certified
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Before You Read Any Further

Why this guide exists, and what we hope you do with it.

You're probably reading this because you're thinking about painting your home. Maybe the trim has been peeling for a while. Maybe the kitchen cabinets are dated and you want them white. Maybe you bought a place in Hayden Canyon and the builder-grade paint already looks tired. Whatever the reason, you're here because painting is on your mind, and you want to make a good decision.

This guide is our attempt to give you everything we know about painting in Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls, and Rathdrum. The prices. The products. The contractor red flags. The climate realities that are different from anywhere else in the country. The neighborhood-specific stuff that comes up when you've been painting in this market long enough.

We wrote it because we think informed homeowners make better choices, and better choices mean better outcomes. The painters who can't survive informed customers go out of business, which is good for everyone left.

A few things to set expectations:

- **We don't make money if you don't hire us.** We tried to write this so it's useful even if you go with another contractor. The math, the climate notes, the verification steps work no matter who you pick.
- **Pricing is current as of 2026.** Painting prices move with material costs and labor markets. The ranges in here are what we and our peer competitors are quoting in 2026. They'll drift over time.
- **This is North Idaho specific.** We didn't copy-paste advice from a Seattle or Boise guide. Every climate note, neighborhood profile, and product recommendation is based on what actually works on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Lake, the Rathdrum Prairie, and the surrounding communities.
- **Contractor names removed.** We mention paint product brands because they matter. We don't name competing contractors because we have working relationships with most of them and we don't want to be the source of public sniping.



If you've ever wondered why your trim fails in 4 years when the brand says 7, the answer is in here.

— Dave Lindstrom, Exterior Specialist

When you're ready for a quote, call us at **(208) 551-1546** or drop a request at coeur-dalene-id-painters.vercel.app. The walk-through is free and there's no pressure. We'll show up with a clipboard, a tape measure, and an honest read on what your home actually needs.

CHAPTER 01

Why Painting in Coeur d'Alene Is Different

Four climate factors that don't apply anywhere else, and what they do to your paint.

Paint companies test their products in standardized conditions. Their warranties are based on those conditions. The problem is that Coeur d'Alene's climate doesn't look anything like a paint manufacturer's lab. Here are the four climate factors that determine how long your paint job actually lasts.

1. High-Altitude UV

Coeur d'Alene sits at 2,150 feet of elevation. Hayden Lake is at 2,250. Rathdrum Prairie pushes 2,300. At these altitudes, the atmosphere is thinner than at sea level, and the UV intensity is roughly 25 to 30 percent higher than what paint manufacturers test for. South and west-facing walls catch the worst of it. We've seen Sherwin-Williams Duration on a south-facing wall in Sanders Beach lose its sheen by year five, when the manufacturer says seven.

TIP

Dark colors absorb more UV and hold heat. On unshaded south or west exposures, expect dark-color paint to fail 2 to 3 years sooner than the manufacturer rates. Save dark for protected exposures or commit to the premium UV-stabilized lines.

2. Freeze-Thaw Cycles

From November through March, CDA bounces between hard freezes at night and afternoon thaws. Water gets into any caulk failure or hairline crack, freezes overnight, expands, and lifts the paint film just enough that the next freeze cycle does a little more damage. By March, the damage has compounded. By April, it shows. By year four or five on a south-facing wall, what should have been touch-up work has turned into full-scrape-and-repaint work.

3. Lake-Effect Humidity

Lake Coeur d'Alene at 25 miles long and 200 feet deep keeps a permanent layer of moist air a few hundred feet up the surrounding hills. Sanders Beach, the Tubbs Hill side, and the south Hayden Lake shore all sit inside that moisture envelope from late May through early October. That humidity gets driven into the wood every afternoon when the lake breeze picks up and reverses direction. The same applies to Twin Lakes Village owners on Upper and Lower Twin Lakes. Lakefront homes need premium paint with active anti-mildew additives, not standard exterior.

4. Wildfire Smoke Season

Late July through August often sees regional wildfire smoke. Smoke particulates settle into wet paint within 24 hours of application and embed in the film. Most homeowners can't see the damage, but the long-term durability takes a hit. Reputable contractors monitor AirNow.gov and stop exterior work when AQI rises above 100. If your contractor doesn't mention smoke days in your contract, ask.

INSIDER NOTE

The combined effect of these four factors compresses the practical exterior repaint cycle. The brochure says 7-to-10 years. In CDA, plan on 5-to-7 for most exposures, 4-to-5 for unshaded lakefront south and west walls. Caulk-and-touch-up work at year 3 buys you time. Skip it and you'll pay double at year 7.

CHAPTER 02

The 2026 Pricing Truth

Real ranges for real CDA-area homes, with the five factors that move the number.

The national average for interior painting is published as \$200 to \$2,700, which is so wide it's useless. Here's what painting actually costs in our market in 2026.

| SERVICE | TYPICAL RANGE | UNIT | TOP PRICE DRIVER |
|---------------------|----------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Interior painting | \$3,200 – \$7,500 | 3-bedroom home | Prep work and ceiling/trim inclusion |
| Exterior painting | \$5,500 – \$14,000 | Average home | Siding type, stories, lakefront prep |
| Cabinet refinishing | \$2,400 – \$5,800 | Average kitchen | Door count, substrate, grain-fill |
| Deck staining | \$700 – \$2,400 | Standard deck | Square footage, wood condition |
| Commercial painting | \$2.50 – \$5.50/sqft | Office/retail | After-hours work, color count |
| Pressure washing | \$300 – \$850 | Average exterior | Stories, mildew severity |

The Five Factors That Move Your Number

Scope. Walls only is the cheapest. Adding ceilings adds roughly \$1,200 to \$1,800 on a 3-bedroom home. Adding trim adds another \$800 to \$1,500.

Square footage. Per-square-foot pricing stays roughly constant, so a 2,800-square-foot home runs 40 percent more than a 2,000-square-foot home, all else equal.

Surface condition and prep. The biggest swing factor. Textured ceilings, smoke damage from wood stoves, water damage from ice dams, and lead paint on pre-1978 homes all add prep cost.

Paint grade. Builder grade saves \$200 to \$400 but lasts 3 to 5 years. Premium adds \$400 to \$800 but lasts 10 to 15 years.

Logistics and access. Empty house with full access is cheapest. Lakefront access at Sanders Beach or Twin Lakes Village, steep CDA hillside lots, and golf-course-adjacent Twin Lakes properties all add cost.

COST SAVER

The fastest way to save on a paint job is to do your own prep. Wash the siding, prune trees back from the house, declutter the interior. A typical homeowner can save \$300 to \$800 by handling the prep that contractors would otherwise need to do.

CHAPTER 03

Neighborhood-by-Neighborhood

Painting realities for the ten neighborhoods we serve across CDA, Hayden, Post Falls, and Rathdrum.

Every CDA-area neighborhood has its own painting playbook. The home styles, the HOA realities, the climate microenvironment, and the typical project mix vary more than you'd expect for a metro area this size. Here's the cheat sheet.

Fort Grounds

The Gathering Place, west of downtown.

HOME STYLES

1920s-30s bungalows, Craftsman cottages, post-war Cape Cods, occasional historic-fit new builds.

COMMON PROJECTS

Exterior repaints with historic color matching, original-wood window restoration, porch and trim refresh, pre-war kitchen cabinet refinishing.

CLIMATE NOTE

Lake-near-downtown humidity matters in spring and fall. Exterior work times best for late May through September when the wood actually dries.

TYPICAL COST

\$5,500 – \$14,000 (exterior); \$3,200 – \$7,500 (interior).

Garden District

Tree-lined streets south of I-90.

HOME STYLES

1950s-70s ranchers, split-levels, mid-century homes, some newer infill.

COMMON PROJECTS

Whole-home interior repaints post move-in, kitchen and bath refresh, exterior repaints on older ranchers, trim and door updates.

CLIMATE NOTE

South of I-90 you catch a little more sun and less lake humidity, but freeze-thaw still gets your trim if you skip a year too long.

TYPICAL COST

\$3,200 – \$6,800 (interior); \$5,500 – \$12,000 (exterior).

Sanders Beach

Walk-to-the-lake pocket on the south side.

HOME STYLES

1940s lake cottages, mid-century lake homes, recent lakefront customs, some carriage-house ADUs.

COMMON PROJECTS

Lake-facing exterior repaints with marine-grade systems, deck staining and sealing, interior color updates, cabinet refinishing.

CLIMATE NOTE

Real lakefront humidity. Marine paint systems and proper prep matter more than the brand you pick. May through early September for exterior.

TYPICAL COST

\$6,500 – \$16,000 (lakefront exterior); \$3,500 – \$8,500 (interior).

Coeur d'Alene Place

Established CDA family neighborhood.

HOME STYLES

1990s-2000s suburban builds, two-story traditional, ranches, occasional Craftsman-inspired.

COMMON PROJECTS

Exterior repaints with HOA-compliant color matching, interior refreshes for families, garage door repaints, cabinet updates.

CLIMATE NOTE

North-facing siding grows mildew without periodic pressure-washing. South-facing fades faster. HOA color approval is non-negotiable.

TYPICAL COST

\$3,500 – \$7,200 (interior); \$5,800 – \$12,500 (exterior).

Avondale on Hayden

Family neighborhood off Hayden Lake.

HOME STYLES

1970s ranchers, 80s contemporary, newer Craftsman builds, lakefront cabins.

COMMON PROJECTS

Exterior repaints for older ranchers, cabin and deck staining on Hayden Lake frontage, cabinet refinishing in 80s kitchens.

CLIMATE NOTE

Hayden Lake humidity plus elevation means freeze-thaw cycles can be tough on older trim. Watch caulk failure on 80s contemporaries.

TYPICAL COST

\$3,800 – \$7,800 (interior); \$6,000 – \$13,000 (exterior); \$4,500 – \$9,000 (lakefront exterior).

Hayden Canyon

New-construction Craftsman pocket.

HOME STYLES

New Craftsman builds, New Traditional, two-story traditional with stone-and-siding mix.

COMMON PROJECTS

Cabinet refinishing and repainting (builder-grade to custom), trim refresh, accent wall and interior color updates.

CLIMATE NOTE

Mountain UV at altitude fades dark exterior colors faster than you'd expect. South-facing trim often needs touch-up within five years.

TYPICAL COST

\$3,500 – \$7,500 (interior); \$2,400 – \$5,800 (cabinet refinishing).

Parkllyn & Foxtail

New Post Falls communities with mountain vistas.

HOME STYLES

New builds: cottages, single-level ranchers, two-story traditional, occasional estate plans.

COMMON PROJECTS

Interior color updates from builder-grade off-white, cabinet refinishing on builder cabinetry, garage and entry refresh.

CLIMATE NOTE

Post Falls wind off the Spokane River dries paint fast but throws dust during exterior work. Schedule around spring wind weeks.

TYPICAL COST

\$3,200 – \$7,000 (interior); \$5,500 – \$11,500 (exterior).

Montrose

Established Post Falls family neighborhood.

HOME STYLES

Late 1990s through mid-2000s suburban, two-story traditional, ranches.

COMMON PROJECTS

Exterior repaints at the 15-to-20-year mark, cabinet refinishing in early-2000s kitchens, interior repaints, deck staining.

CLIMATE NOTE

Spokane River humidity plus wind: north-facing siding can grow algae if not washed every couple years. Pressure wash before every exterior repaint.

TYPICAL COST

\$3,500 – \$7,500 (interior); \$5,800 – \$12,500 (exterior).

Twin Lakes Village

Waterfront golf community on the lakes.

HOME STYLES

1970s-80s cabins and lake homes, newer waterfront customs, golf-course-facing two-story traditional.

COMMON PROJECTS

Lake-cabin exterior repaints with marine-grade systems, deck staining (3-year cycle), interior repaints for retiree cabin updates.

CLIMATE NOTE

Two lakes plus pine cover means slow-drying conditions in shoulder seasons. June through September window. HOA color guidelines apply.

TYPICAL COST

\$1,200 – \$2,800 (deck staining); \$7,500 – \$18,000 (lakefront exterior).

Downtown Rathdrum

Main Street character and early-1900s Craftsmans.

HOME STYLES

Early 1900s Craftsman bungalows, frame cottages, 1970s ranchers, occasional infill.

COMMON PROJECTS

Historic Craftsman exterior repaints with period-correct colors, original-wood window and trim restoration, interior repaints.

CLIMATE NOTE

Rathdrum Prairie sits higher than CDA, so winter freeze-thaw is meaner on older trim. Pre-inspect for caulk and rot before exterior bids.

TYPICAL COST

\$5,500 – \$13,500 (historic exterior); \$3,200 – \$7,200 (interior).

CHAPTER 04

How to Verify Your Painter in 5 Minutes

Idaho doesn't issue contractor licenses. It has RCE registration. Here's how to verify it.

IDAHO LAW

Idaho doesn't use a contractor license. Idaho uses RCE — Registration of Contractors — administered by the Idaho Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses (DOPL). Any painting contractor doing work over \$2,000 in Idaho is required by law to be RCE registered.

The 5-Minute Verification

Before you sign anything, do this.

- Go to **dopl.idaho.gov** and click "Look Up A License."
- Select "Contractor" from the dropdown.
- Enter the contractor's business name or RCE number.
- Confirm status shows **Active** (not Expired, Suspended, or Revoked).
- Confirm both **Insurance** and **Bond** show as verified.
- Check the complaints section. Two complaints on a 10-year business that resolved them: fine. Five unresolved complaints: walk away.

Beyond RCE: Three More Verifications

1. EPA Lead-Safe Certification (pre-1978 homes only). Required by federal law for any home built before 1978 where you're disturbing painted surfaces. Many Fort Grounds, Garden District, Sanders Beach, and Downtown Rathdrum homes fall under this. Verify at **epa.gov** using the certified firm lookup. If your home is pre-1978 and your contractor isn't Lead-Safe certified, that's a deal-breaker. The fines for lead-safe violations are \$37,500 per violation and YOU can be liable as the property owner.

2. Certificate of Insurance (COI). Idaho RCE confirms insurance at the moment of registration. Coverage can lapse between annual renewals. Ask for a current COI showing general liability AND workers comp in-effect for your project dates. Reputable contractors send these without being asked.

3. Three local references. Ask for three completed projects in your specific neighborhood. Call all three. Ask what went well, what didn't, and whether they'd hire the contractor again.

WATCH OUT

The biggest red flag is the storm-chaser pattern: out-of-state contractor shows up after a hailstorm or weather event, doesn't have an Idaho RCE, offers a deep discount for cash, and disappears the next week. This happens in CDA every spring. Verify the RCE before you sign anything. Always.

CHAPTER 05

7 Questions to Ask Before You Sign

The questions that separate the contractors who do this right from the ones who don't.

1. Are you currently RCE registered in Idaho, and what's your number?

Good answer: Yes, RCE-12345, verify at dopl.idaho.gov. Bad answer: We're licensed in Washington, or any answer that doesn't produce a specific Idaho RCE number.

2. Will I get a Certificate of Insurance showing general liability and workers comp current for my project dates?

Good answer: Yes, I'll email it before the start date. Bad answer: We're fully insured (without producing the document).

3. What's your prep process specifically for [your situation]?

For an exterior: power wash, scrape, sand, caulk gaps, prime bare wood. For cabinets: removal of doors, degloss, prime, two coats of catalyzed acrylic enamel. If they don't describe specific steps, they're not doing them.

4. What products will you use, by brand and line?

Good answer: Sherwin-Williams Duration for exteriors, Benjamin Moore Aura for interiors. Bad answer: We use premium paint (without specifying).

5. How long is your workmanship warranty?

Industry standard is 2 to 5 years on workmanship covering peeling, bubbling, and flaking. Bad answer: We don't do warranties. Worse: lifetime warranties from a contractor who has been in business 18 months.

6. Will you provide three local references in my neighborhood?

Ideally your specific neighborhood. At minimum, three CDA-area projects you can call. Bad answer: We have lots of customers (without producing three specific contacts).

7. What's your payment schedule?

Good answer: Nothing or 10% up front, progress payments during the project, balance on completion. Idaho law limits up-front to 15% or \$1,000 (whichever is less) on most contracts. Bad answer: 50% up front. Worst answer: Cash only.



The contractors who do this work right answer all seven questions in under three minutes and produce documents on request. The ones who can't are usually trying to hide something.

CHAPTER 06

10 Red Flags That Should Stop You Cold

If you see any of these, walk away. There are plenty of legitimate contractors in this market.

- 01. No Idaho RCE registration.** Operating illegally. End of discussion.
- 02. Asks for 50%+ up front.** Idaho law caps it at 15% or \$1,000. Anyone asking for more either doesn't know the law or is planning to disappear.
- 03. Cash only, no contract.** Combined with no RCE, this is a fraud preset. No paper trail means no recourse when things go wrong.
- 04. Out-of-state license they keep talking about.** Washington L&I; doesn't cover Idaho work. Storm chasers love this trick.
- 05. Pressure to sign today.** "Special price if you sign right now" is a tactic, not a deal. Real quotes hold for 30+ days.
- 06. No physical address or local references.** A contractor who can't produce three CDA neighborhood references doesn't have them.
- 07. Verbal warranty.** If it's not in writing, it doesn't exist. Workmanship warranty should be in the contract.
- 08. Vague product brands.** "Premium paint" or "high-quality paint" without naming the specific brand and line means they're going to use whatever's cheapest that day.
- 09. Skips prep talk.** If they're not describing power wash, scrape, sand, caulk, and prime, they're not doing it. The prep is 80 percent of how long the finish lasts.
- 10. No COI provided.** If they can't produce a current Certificate of Insurance, they're either uninsured or hoping you won't ask. Either way: walk.

CHAPTER 07

Paint Products: What to Use Where

Builder grade, mid-grade, and premium. The right tier for the right application, with specific brand recommendations.

Tier 1: Builder Grade (\$30-\$45/gallon)

Examples: Sherwin-Williams ProMark, Behr Premium, Glidden Premium. Lasts 3 to 5 years on interior walls, less on exteriors. Useful for rentals, flips, or temporary fixes. Not recommended for any surface where you want the paint to outlast the next sale.

Tier 2: Mid-Grade (\$55-\$75/gallon)

Examples: Sherwin-Williams SuperPaint, Benjamin Moore Regal Select, Behr Marquee. Lasts 7 to 10 years on interior walls, 5 to 7 on exteriors. This is the right tier for most rooms in a CDA-area home. Good coverage, washable, hides minor imperfections.

Tier 3: Premium (\$85-\$110/gallon)

Examples: Sherwin-Williams Emerald (interior) or Duration (exterior), Benjamin Moore Aura (interior) or Aura Exterior. Lasts 10 to 15 years on interior, 7 to 10 on exteriors. Has dramatically better UV stability, mildew resistance, and stain washability. Worth the upgrade in kitchens, bathrooms, and on all lakefront exterior applications.

Application Cheat Sheet

| APPLICATION | TIER | SPECIFIC PRODUCT |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| Interior walls (bedrooms) | Mid-grade | SW SuperPaint or BM Regal Select |
| Interior walls (kitchen/bath) | Premium | SW Emerald or BM Aura Bath & Spa |
| Ceilings | Mid-grade | SW Ceiling Paint or BM Waterborne Ceiling |
| Trim and doors | Premium | SW Emerald Urethane Trim Enamel or BM Advance |
| Cabinet refinishing | Premium | Catalyzed acrylic enamel (BM Advance, ML Campbell Aqualente) |
| Exterior siding (inland) | Mid-grade | SW SuperPaint Exterior or BM Regal Exterior |
| Exterior siding (lakefront) | Premium | SW Duration or BM Aura Exterior |

| | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Exterior trim | Premium | SW Emerald Urethane Trim Enamel |
| Deck stain (semi-transparent) | Premium | TWP 1500 or Cabot Australian Timber Oil |
| Pressure-washing pre-treatment | — | 30 Seconds Outdoor Cleaner (mildew/algae) |

CHAPTER 08

The CDA Painting Calendar

Month by month: when to schedule exterior, when to wait, when to do interior work, and the optimal window.

February-March. Get your free quote. Lock your contractor for your preferred summer window. Best painters get booked early.

April. Pre-project prep. Clean gutters, do minor carpentry, prune trees and shrubs that touch the house. Color decisions finalized.

May (early). Pressure washing can happen as soon as overnight temps stay above 40°F. Exterior painting still risky.

May 20 – June 15. Shoulder window. Watch overnight lows. Workable but not ideal.

June 15 – September 10. Optimal exterior painting window. Reliable warm days, low overnight lows (mid-50s), low humidity, minimal smoke risk before mid-July.

Mid-July – mid-August. Watch AirNow.gov for smoke. AQI above 100, exterior work pauses. Smoke embeds in fresh paint.

September 15 – October 5. Shoulder window. Workable if forecast cooperates. Hard stop on any forecast below freezing within 72 hours.

October 15+. Exterior season over for the year. Interior projects start.

November – April. Interior painting prime time. Cabinet refinishing benefits from warmer indoor temps but workable year-round.

TIP

Cabin owners who don't live in CDA full-time: we can do a remote walk-through in March or April from photos and video calls, schedule the work for your specific summer window, and send daily photo updates while you're away. About 70 percent of our Twin Lakes Village customers do it this way.

CHAPTER 09

Lakefront Property Considerations

For Sanders Beach, Hayden Lake, and Twin Lakes Village owners. The math is different here.

If you own a home on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Hayden Lake, or Twin Lakes, the painting math is different. The 7-to-10-year cycle you read about in painting blogs is for inland homes. Lakefront properties in our region are on a 5-to-7-year cycle for most exposures, and unshaded south or west-facing walls of a Sanders Beach or Twin Lakes Village cabin often need touch-ups inside of 4 years.

The Lakefront Cycle

Year 0 to 3: First touch-up window. Walk your exterior every spring after ice-out. Look for caulk failure around windows, doors, and trim joints. A \$400 to \$600 caulk-and-touch-up pass at year three buys you 2 to 3 more years before a full repaint. Skip this and you'll face \$7,500 to \$14,000 at year seven instead of \$500 now.

Year 4 to 5: Mid-cycle reassessment. By year four on a south or west-facing exposure, you should see chalking on the dominant siding color. Run your hand across the wall in afternoon light. If your palm comes away with a fine powdery residue, the topcoat is breaking down.

Year 7: Full repaint. Plan on \$7,500 to \$11,000 for an average 1,800 sqft Sanders Beach cottage. Twin Lakes Village or Hayden Canyon homes at 3,000+ sqft can hit \$12,000 to \$18,000 when you factor in lakefront access logistics, marine-grade upgrades, and aggressive prep.

What "Marine-Grade" Actually Means

"Marine-grade" gets used loosely. Strictly speaking, true marine paint is for boats and dock structures. For a lakefront home 30 feet from the waterline, you need premium exterior paint formulated for high-moisture environments with anti-mildew additives and UV-blocking pigments. Sherwin-Williams Duration, Benjamin Moore Aura Exterior, and SW Emerald Urethane Trim Enamel all qualify.

What lakefront homes need more aggressively is primer. Bare wood, especially cedar shingles common on older Hayden Lake cabins, soaks up moisture faster than it dries. High-quality bonding primer (SW Extreme Bond or BM Stix) on every bare-wood patch is non-negotiable.

INSIDER NOTE

Avoid dark colors on unshaded lakefront walls. Dark paint absorbs heat and the reflective UV from the water surface compounds the stress. We've stopped recommending deep navy or charcoal full-body exteriors for unshaded lakefront properties because we've seen them fail two to three years early. Lake-light neutrals (cedar shake greens, weathered grays, soft taupes) hold up best.

CHAPTER 10

Color Selection for North Idaho Light

Why CDA's high-altitude light fools you, and the palettes that actually work here.

At Coeur d'Alene's elevation of 2,150 feet, the sky is bluer than at sea level. That blue light cools every paint color you put on your walls. A "warm white" from a Seattle paint store can read cold-blue on a CDA wall by 3pm. Same outside: Pacific Northwest paint colors that work in Seattle's gray flat light look completely different in CDA's bright high-altitude sun. Buy paint locally, or at minimum sample on your actual walls at three times of day before committing.

Exterior Palettes That Work

Lake Sage Family. Soft sage greens with gray undertones. Sit comfortably against surrounding pines, don't get washed out by lake reflection. Try Benjamin Moore Saybrook Sage, Sherwin-Williams Dried Thyme, or SW Evergreen Fog. Pair with creamy white trim (BM Swiss Coffee or SW Alabaster).

Weathered Cedar Family. Warm taupe and warm-gray for lake-cabin aesthetic without going dark. SW Anonymous or BM Revere Pewter. Reads as naturally aged cedar.

Modern-Cabin Dark Family. SW Iron Ore or BM Wrought Iron work for Hayden Canyon and Parkllyn modern builds, but only on protected exposures (north and east-facing, or homes with deep eaves and tree cover). For sun-exposed dark, spec the Emerald or Duration line for UV stability.

Interior Palettes

Whole-house warm white. Best safe choice for CDA, Hayden, Post Falls, and Rathdrum interiors. Bright high-altitude daylight plus warm 2700K interior LEDs make cool whites feel sterile. Try BM Swiss Coffee, SW Alabaster, or BM White Dove.

Lake-view accent wall. Homes with lake views benefit from a deep accent wall on the lake-facing wall opposite the windows. Pulls the eye to the view. SW Naval (deep blue), BM Hale Navy, or BM Hague Blue.

Mountain-lodge neutral. SW Accessible Beige and BM Manchester Tan hold up beautifully in CDA winter light without going dingy.

WATCH OUT

Colors to avoid in this climate: Cool grays read depressing in CDA winter. Bright primary colors fade fast in high-altitude UV. Pure stark whites read ice-cold from October through April. Stick to warm whites, sage greens, weathered taupes, and earthy neutrals.

How to Sample Correctly

Don't paint sample squares on your wall. Paint them on a 2x2 foot piece of foam-core poster board (\$5 at Home Depot). Move the board to different walls and view at morning, noon, and late afternoon. For exteriors, paint a 2x2 sample on a board you can hold against the wall in three different exposures. View Saturday morning, Saturday at 2pm, and Sunday at 6pm. The color that survives all three is the color you want.

CHAPTER 11

Pre-Painter Prep Checklist

Fourteen things every CDA homeowner should do before our crew shows up. Saves you money and keeps the project on schedule.

Exterior Project

- Trim back trees and shrubs that touch the siding. We need 18 inches of clearance.
- Move outdoor furniture, planters, grills, and decorations at least 10 feet from the house.
- Remove items hanging on the exterior (wind chimes, hose reels, flag brackets).
- Identify and mark any inground sprinkler heads near the foundation.
- Clean gutters of debris. Falling leaves and twigs settle into wet paint.
- Park vehicles in the garage or at the curb (not in the driveway).
- Walk the exterior with us at the start to identify any rot, cracks, or moisture issues.
- Confirm your color choices in writing before we open the first can.

Interior Project

- Take down all wall art, mirrors, shelves, curtains, and curtain rods.
- Pull furniture away from walls (we move it to the center and cover, but pull valuables to a safe room).
- Remove all items from floors that will be drop-clothed.
- Identify any wallpaper, textured walls, or surfaces requiring special prep so we can plan and quote accurately.
- Plan kid and pet logistics. Most interior projects mean rooms are off-limits for 24 to 48 hours.
- Stock up on coffee and snacks. We bring our own but appreciate the gesture.

CHAPTER 12

Interior Room-by-Room Planning

What to think about before painting each room of a CDA-area home.

Kitchen

High-moisture, high-traffic. Use premium washable paint (SW Emerald Satin or BM Aura Bath & Spa). Plan for two coats minimum. If you're also doing cabinets, sequence cabinets first, then walls. Allow 4 to 7 days if combined. Watch for grease residue near the stove — needs degreaser pre-wash or paint won't adhere.

Bathroom

Ventilation matters. Open windows or use a fan during and 24 hours after. Use premium bath-specific paint with mildew-resistant additives. Caulk around tub and sink before painting. In Hayden Lake and Twin Lakes Village cabins, bathrooms get extra humidity in shoulder seasons — prep accordingly.

Living Room / Great Room

Largest area and most visible to guests. Worth investing in mid-grade or premium. Fireplace surrounds need heat-tolerant paint if within 36 inches of the firebox. Watch for smoke residue from wood stoves (very common in CDA homes) — cleans and seals before painting or finish fails in months.

Bedrooms

Lower-traffic. Mid-grade paint is the right choice (SW SuperPaint or BM Regal Select). Eggshell or matte finish, depending on style. Consider accent walls behind the bed for visual depth without committing to whole-room dark colors.

Hallways and Stairwells

High-traffic, scuff-prone. Use premium for washability. Tall stairwells need scaffolding or extension equipment — confirm contractor can access without damaging carpet. Hallways often get neglected in repaint scopes — explicitly include them in the quote.

Garage

Optional but worth doing if you're repainting the interior. Use exterior-grade or industrial-grade paint on garage walls (handles temperature swings better). Concrete floor coatings are a separate project from wall painting.

CHAPTER 13

Cabinet Refinishing Deep Dive

The highest-ROI improvement for most CDA-area kitchens. Done right, it lasts 8-12 years.

Most new-construction homes going up in Hayden Canyon, the Parkllyn, Foxtail, and Montrose came with builder-grade maple or oak cabinets. Five to eight years later, the orange undertone has yellowed and the kitchen looks dated. Refinishing gets you the custom-cabinet look for \$2,400 to \$5,800 — a fraction of the \$15,000-\$40,000 full replacement.

Three Process Tiers

Tier 1: Cabinet Painting (Brush and Roll). \$1,200 to \$1,800. Doors stay on. Trim enamel applied with brush and roller. Looks acceptable for 18 months, then chips and yellows. We don't quote this work because the result doesn't last.

Tier 2: Spray-Finish Refinishing. \$2,400 to \$5,800. Doors and drawer fronts come off. Boxes get sanded, deglossed, and sprayed in place. Doors get sprayed in a controlled environment (our shop or your garage with a portable booth). Hard, smooth, factory-grade finish. Lasts 8 to 12 years. This is what most customers actually want.

Tier 3: Full Replacement. \$15,000 to \$40,000. Custom cabinets, new layout, new countertops. Right answer only if your boxes are particle-board and water-damaged, or you want a different layout.

What Drives Price Within Tier 2

Cabinet count. Hayden Canyon kitchens typically have 25-38 doors and drawer fronts. Older Post Falls homes have 18-25. **Door style:** Flat shaker doors spray faster than raised-panel with profile cuts. **Wood species:** Maple sprays beautifully with one prime coat. Oak has open grain needing grain filler for smooth finish. **Finish color:** Whites need three coats minimum. Mid-tones and darks need two. **Hardware:** Reusing is included. New hinges and pulls add \$200-\$800.

Three Mistakes to Avoid

- 1. Hiring tier-1 contractors thinking you're getting tier-2 quality.** Always ask if they're using catalyzed acrylic enamel and whether boxes are sprayed in place.
- 2. Skipping the substrate check.** Thermofoil cabinets (common in older Post Falls homes) can't be sanded and painted like wood. Wrong process on wrong substrate is the biggest reason cabinet jobs fail.
- 3. Picking color without testing.** Cabinet doors look completely different in CDA light than they did in the showroom. Sample on a single door before committing to all 30.

CHAPTER 14

The Quote Comparison Worksheet

Fill this in for each contractor you're considering. Compare apples to apples.

| QUESTION | CONTRACTOR A | CONTRACTOR B |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Company name | | |
| RCE number (verify at dopl.idaho.gov) | | |
| Years in business | | |
| EPA Lead-Safe certified? (only required for pre-1978 homes) | | |
| Three local references provided? | | |
| Project total (written) | | |
| Surface prep specifically described? | | |
| Paint brand and line specified? | | |
| Coats specified (minimum 2)? | | |
| Workmanship warranty length (years) | | |
| Up-front payment requested | | |
| COI provided? | | |
| Start date / completion date | | |
| Cleanup and damage policy in writing? | | |
| Change-order policy clear? | | |

TIP

Print two copies of this worksheet (back-to-back) for each quote. Take notes during the walk-through. The contractor who answers everything clearly without hesitation is usually the one who has done this work right for a long time.

CHAPTER 15

Painting Terminology, Decoded

A glossary of the terms contractors throw around without explaining.

Catalyzed acrylic enamel. The standard for cabinet refinishing. A two-part finish that cures harder than standard enamel. Resists chips and yellowing for 8-12 years.

Caulk failure. When the flexible sealant between siding and trim breaks down. The first sign of an aging exterior paint job. Fixable at year 3 for \$400-\$600. Ignored, it leads to a \$7,500+ full repaint by year 7.

Chalking. White powdery residue on aged exterior paint. Run your palm across a south-facing wall in afternoon light. If your palm comes back chalky, the topcoat is breaking down.

COI (Certificate of Insurance). Document showing the contractor's current general liability and workers comp coverage. Should be in-effect for your project dates. Reputable contractors provide it without asking.

Coverage. The square footage one gallon of paint covers. Most paints rate 350-400 sqft per gallon, but actual coverage on textured or porous surfaces can drop to 250.

Cut-in. The careful brushwork at edges where rolling can't reach. The quality of cut-in lines tells you everything about a painter's skill.

Drop cloth. Cloth or plastic sheeting that protects floors and furniture during a project. Canvas is better than plastic (less slippery, reusable).

EPA Lead-Safe. Federal certification required for any contractor disturbing painted surfaces in pre-1978 homes. Verify at epa.gov.

Grain filler. A paste applied before priming on oak or other open-grained wood to fill the grain texture and create a smooth painted surface. Adds \$300-\$500 to a cabinet project but produces glass-smooth finish.

Idaho RCE. Registration of Contractors administered by Idaho DOPL. Functionally Idaho's contractor licensing. Required for any work over \$2,000.

Marine-grade paint. Loosely used. Strictly, paints designed for direct water exposure (boats and docks). For lakefront homes, premium exterior with anti-mildew additives is what you actually need.

Mil thickness. The thickness of dried paint film. Manufacturers spec optimal mils (e.g., 4-6 mils dry film for premium exteriors). Too thin: poor coverage. Too thick: cracking.

Primer. The first coat that bonds to the surface and gives the paint something to adhere to. Bonding primer (SW Extreme Bond, BM Stix) is non-negotiable on bare wood and challenging substrates.

Sheen. How shiny the paint surface is. Flat (no shine, hides imperfections), eggshell (slight shine, washable), satin (more shine), semi-gloss (kitchens/baths/trim), gloss (rarely used).

Spray finish. Paint applied with a sprayer rather than brush or roller. Produces smooth, factory-grade finish. Essential for high-quality cabinet refinishing.

Topcoat. The final coat that provides UV, moisture, and stain protection. Quality and thickness here determine how long your paint job lasts.

Workmanship warranty. The contractor's guarantee on the labor (not the paint manufacturer's product warranty). Industry standard is 2-5 years covering peeling, bubbling, and flaking.

READY WHEN YOU ARE

Get a Free Quote

No pressure. No high-sell. Just an honest walk-through and a detailed line-item estimate.

When you're ready for a quote on your Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Post Falls, or Rathdrum project, here's how to reach us.

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| PHONE | (208) 551-1546 |
| WEBSITE | coeur-dalene-id-painters.vercel.app |
| SERVICE AREA | Coeur d'Alene, Hayden, Hayden Lake, Post Falls, Rathdrum, and surrounding Kootenai County communities |
| HOURS | Monday through Saturday, 7am to 6pm |
| CREDENTIALS | Idaho RCE registered · EPA Lead-Safe Certified · Fully insured (general liability + workers comp) |
| RESPONSE TIME | Most quote requests get a reply within 15 minutes during business hours |



Painters who can't survive informed customers go out of business, which is good for everyone left.

About this guide. Published 2026 by Coeur d'Alene Premium Painters. All pricing reflects current 2026 CDA-area market conditions. Climate data sourced from NOAA and local observation. Idaho RCE and EPA Lead-Safe procedures sourced from dopl.idaho.gov and epa.gov respectively. No part of this guide is intended as legal advice. Verify contractor credentials independently before signing any contract. We update this guide annually as paint products, regulations, and market prices change.