

# Time to freshen up the exterior

## Wellington homes need to have their exteriors painted between spring and autumn.

**S**UMMER isn't all about beer, barbecues and the beach – there's also getting the house painted.

This is the optimal time of the year to paint your home, be it a full exterior makeover or a touch-up inside and out. Even low-maintenance houses can need some restorative brush work.

"There is always some sort of painting to be done," Louis Buchet, of LB Painting Services, says.

"The new cladding can cope with darker colours without flexing so much, and even though brick is popular on new homes there are still trims and soffits to paint."

He says most Wellington homes need to have their exteriors painted between spring and autumn.

"We usually start to pick up around September/October and go on until April/May. Then it's time to go inside as most parts of Wellington then are too cold, and



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LOUIS BUCHET

for your roller." (The measurement refers to the thickness of the wool or nylon pile.)

Since Mr Buchet started painting houses in 2001, there has been a switch from oil-based paint systems to acrylic, "but I personally

either damp or too windy to make it worthwhile outside.

"Interior work can be pushed from June to August. I know someone who would disagree and say all interior painting should be done in summer when you can open windows. But this isn't really practical."

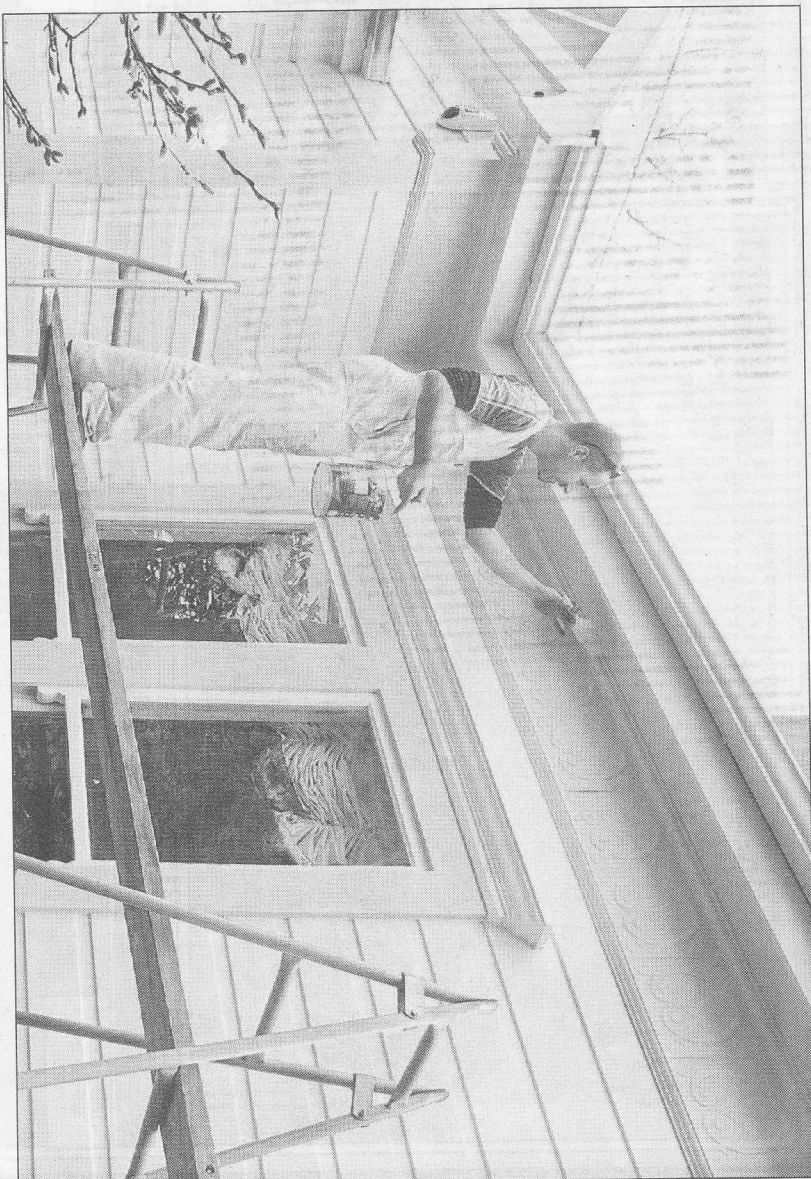
For exteriors, Mr Buchet recommends using a 75-100 millimetre brush for weatherboards and a small 50mm cutting-in brush for the windows and trim.

"I prefer a hard brush for oil-based paints, and a soft brush for acrylic, both interior and exterior."

"For interior I use a 75mm brush for walls, as these hold the paint well. Usually you need between an eight and 11mm 'nap', or sleeve

refers to the thickness of the wool or nylon pile.)

Since Mr Buchet started painting houses in 2001, there has been a switch from oil-based paint systems to acrylic, "but I personally



prefer the oil-based system for places like doors and sliding windows, as oil dries harder than acrylic.

"The paint technology has also changed, allowing darker colours to be used outside, but dark colours still simply do not last as long as lighter colours because they attract the heat.

"There has also been a shift towards eco and people-friendly paints for interior, with low VOCs [volatile organic compounds], as the public demand has increased.

All the paint companies now offer these products at competitive prices.

"There are paint recycling programmes and specialised portable washing facilities for professionals so you can clean your equipment on a job without it harming the environment."

He urges homeowners to "always get several quotes" when choosing a painter. "Ask for detailed quotes showing exactly what is included and what isn't. Ask for clarification if you have a

**Spruce up:** There has been a switch from oil-based paints to acrylics.

large price difference in your quotes.

"Don't be afraid to discuss things further if you like a particular tradesperson but their price is higher than you can afford."