

Painting wood frames

Painting wood windows can be a tough job, especially keeping paint off the glass. Masking tape takes time to install and can be a mess to remove. Removal of paint with a razor blade is dangerous and can damage the freshly painted finish.

Instead, use a large putty knife as a paint shield. A 10-inch drywall taping knife works best. Lay the blade into the joint between the glass and the wood frame. Hold the knife firmly in place at an angle of about 30 degrees from the glass while brushing paint onto the wood frame. Excess paint will wind up on the knife instead of on the window.

Installing wood flooring

Homes built on a concrete slab often have cold floors. Hardwood is a way to warm both the appearance and what's underfoot. Water vapor travels through a concrete slab making it impossible to install solid flooring without having it end up twisted or cracked. However, parquet or laminated hardwood flooring, can be installed directly over concrete with preparation. Some laminated flooring products called "floating floors" are installed over a layer of foam. The planks are glued to each other, but are not anchored to the floor. If solid, finished-in-place flooring is a must, a vapor barrier, a layer of three-quarter-inch plywood underlayment, with plenty of nails.



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