



Sydney2030/Green/Global/Connected

CITY OF SYDNEY 

Heritage conservation areas Repainting guidelines

If you own or manage a building in a heritage conservation area, use these guidelines to keep your repainting consistent with its surroundings.

You don't need to ask the City of Sydney for permission to repaint unless your building is listed as a heritage item or located in Millers Point or Dawes Point.

If you're not sure about your building's status, please call a duty planner on 02 9265 9333.

Learn more about conservation areas

A heritage conservation area has a special 'character', often due to its history or physical appearance. This may be a consistent building style or a phase of architecture or development that the area represents.

Conservation areas are identified in the City's planning controls. They are supported by a heritage inventory with information about their history and character.

The City of Sydney has planning controls to protect the important characteristics of these areas, though in most cases, repainting isn't one of these.

You must have approval to paint a heritage-listed building

To repaint a heritage-listed building or a building in Millers Point or Dawes Point, you will need a development consent or written exemption from the City. A written exemption is known as 'heritage works with consent'.

And if you're not sure about the heritage status of your building, please call a duty planner on 02 9265 9333.

General repainting guidelines

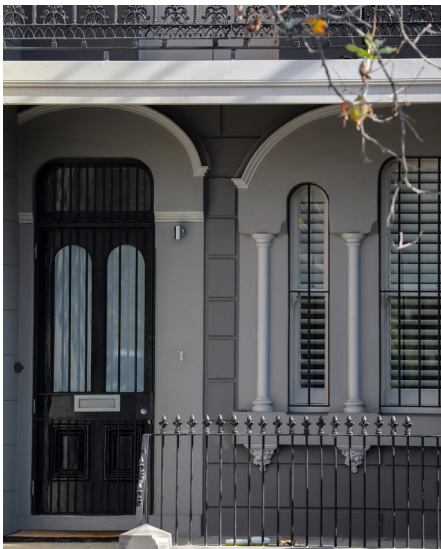
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| ✓ Only repaint surfaces intended for painting. | ✗ Do not paint face brickwork, tiles or stone, or apply clear coatings. |
| ✓ You can paint timber joinery and metalwork. | ✗ Do not remove any original details, such as decorative plasterwork, during repainting. |
| ✓ Consider carefully removing the paint on brickwork. | ✗ Do not repaint over painted bricks. Talk to us instead. |

Consider the paint type – use one with a vapour-permeable finish, such as a cement based painted finish. This ensures the paint does not seal in moisture or cause the surface beneath it to deteriorate.

Choosing a colour scheme

A contemporary colour scheme

- Think about how the colour scheme will impact your street, neighbourhood and conservation area.
- Effective colour schemes often have a simple range of colours and use tonal differences to highlight architectural features.
- You can also seek advice from design specialists or paint retailers.



A traditional colour scheme

- Your colour scheme could follow the period and style of your building. Traditional colour schemes can enhance and complement old buildings.
- Paint scrapes on your building or historic photos may give some idea on what traditional colours the building used to be painted.
- There are many publications with information on traditional colour schemes, including *Colour Schemes for Old Australian Houses and More Colour Schemes for Old Australian Houses*.
- Some paint companies offer paint charts outlining heritage colour schemes.



Focus on the details

- With any colour scheme, concentrate on the details of your building.
- Don't hide details by painting them all one colour.



Buildings in pairs and groups

- Consider talking with your neighbours about having a uniform colour scheme.
- Different coloured front doors can be a good way to distinguish between them.
- Reinforce the main patterns along a streetscape by applying one colour to the front walls of each building.
- You could also consider using the same base colour, with different coloured details on individual buildings.
- For adjoining buildings, negotiate who gets to paint what, so every building looks as good as possible.



Removing paint

- Consider removing paint from surfaces that should not have been painted. Do this carefully, so the subsurface is not damaged.
- Avoid sandblasting or disc sanding.
- Seek specialist advice for product information to ensure you are using the best product for your situation.

References

Heritage conservation in the City of Sydney:

www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/development/application-guide/heritage-conservation

Heritage works with consent:

www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/development/application-guide/heritage-conservation/heritage-works-without-consent

Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012, Schedule 5 Environmental heritage:

www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/#/view/EPI/2012/628/sch5

King Street and Enmore Road Paint Scheme:

www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/development/application-guide/heritage-conservation/king-street-and-enmore-road-paint-scheme

More information

Visit cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/development/application-guide/heritage-conservation

You can also contact the City's Urban Design and Heritage team on 02 9265 9333.