

MAKE A RUSH FOR THE BRUSHES



Louis Buchet says what paint you need to use depends on the parts of the house you're using it on. But a bit of planning goes a long way towards getting a good paint job that will free up the next few summers.

Spring is in the air, summer beckons – and that house isn't going to paint itself.

You could do it yourself, while listening to the cricket on the radio. Or you could pay professionals, and go to the cricket instead.

In either case, first brush up on these tips from Wellington painter Louis Buchet, of LB Painting Services.

"Make sure you like the painter you choose

as that person could be around you and your house for several weeks," Louis says.

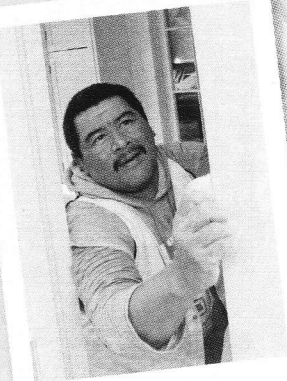
"With a solo painter, there'll be more of a personal touch and probably better quality control whereas often a crew will only be as good as its worst painter – but it can complete a small exterior in one-to-two weeks rather than the seven-to-eight weeks it would take a solo painter."

If painting the house yourself:

- Ideally do it in spring or summer, when days are longer and sunnier.
- Use oil paints on windows that slide up internally, as they're hard-wearing, and acrylics elsewhere, as they're easier to apply, quicker to dry and won't crack when timber expands in the heat.
- If you live near the sea, wash down the house daily before painting to remove salts.
- Always wear a mask so you don't risk inhaling lead paints, solvents, dust, algae or asbestos.
- If you need to paint in winter, use an acrylic winter-grade paint that dries faster than ordinary paint.

If choosing a professional:

- Seek recommendations from friends, family and colleagues.
- Ask for references from people whose homes the painter has painted recently.
- Make sure the person you're hiring will be doing the painting, or taking charge of it, rather than subcontracting it out.
- Demand an assurance of workmanship that guarantees the work for at least five years.
- Look for punctuality, professional presentation, compatibility and passion about painting.



Charlie Smith works on the LB Painting Services team.