



The *Finishing* House
PAINTERS & DECORATORS
— L O N D O N —

Preparing your home *for the decorators.*

A short, practical guide to the days before — and during — a commission:
what to move, what we protect, and what to expect from each stage.

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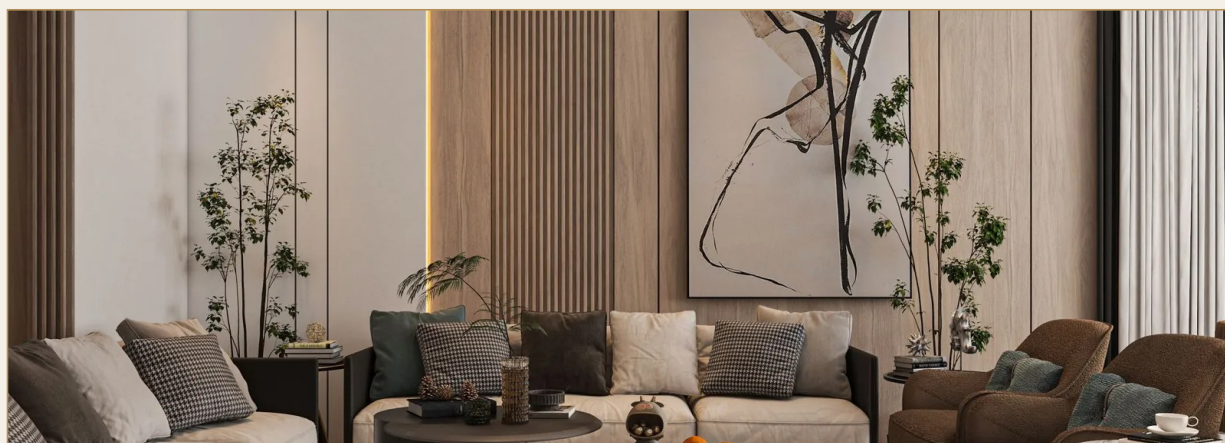
A note from the team.

Thank you for inviting us into your home. This short guide sets out, calmly and in one place, everything worth knowing before a commission begins — what to move and what we protect, the practical details of access, and what each stage of the work looks like day to day.

Nothing here is homework. Most of it we handle ourselves, and none of it is a condition of the work — it is simply the small amount of shared preparation that makes the first morning effortless and the finish everything it should be.

Everything we do is specified in writing before we start: the scope, the systems, the finishes and a fixed price. If anything in this guide raises a question, ask us — you will always have one senior decorator as your single point of contact, from first survey to final walk-through.

The promise in one breath: specified in writing, prepared properly, finished flawlessly, handed over clean — by the same trusted faces every time.



What to move — and what we protect.

On the first morning we sheet and protect everything that stays: floors, furniture, joinery, radiators and switches. Protection is part of the job, never an extra. A few things, though, are best moved by you before we arrive:

SMALL AND PRECIOUS THINGS

Ornaments, lamps, books, photographs and anything fragile or valuable — moved to a room we are not working in. We would rather these were in your hands than anyone else's.

ART AND MIRRORS

We are happy to take pictures down and re-hang them at handover; if a piece is particularly valuable or sentimental, please move it yourself or let us know so we can plan for it.

WINDOW TREATMENTS

Curtains and blinds in the working rooms are best taken down — we can do this with you on day one if that is easier.

LARGER FURNITURE

Leave it to us. We move what needs moving, sheet it, and return every piece to its place at the end.

Keys, access and living alongside the work.

KEYS AND ALARMS

Most clients hand us a key or fob for the duration, with alarm instructions if needed. What we see and hold in clients' homes stays private, as a matter of course.

WHERE WE SET UP

We keep materials and tools to one agreed spot, tidy as we go, and leave the working rooms broom-clean at the end of every day — not just at the end of the job.

AN OCCUPIED HOME

Most of the homes we finish are lived in throughout. We sequence the work room by room, so you always have your kitchen, a bathroom and somewhere comfortable to be; we agree working hours with you and keep noise and disruption to the minimum the work allows.

PARKING AND LOGISTICS

Handled and priced within your proposal — parking, congestion charge, protection and clean-up are part of doing the job properly, never itemised as extras.

Pets, children — and the air in the house.

PETS

Tell us who lives with you. Wet paint and curious noses are old adversaries — we keep doors closed and rooms sealed while surfaces cure, and simply ask that pets are kept clear of the working rooms during the day.

CHILDREN

Dust sheets and ladders are irresistible. Working rooms are best treated as off-limits until handover; we make them safe and tidy at the end of each day regardless.

DUST

Preparation is over half of every programme, so we sand with dust-controlled equipment and seal doorways where it matters. Some fine dust is inevitable; a film of it beyond the working rooms is not.

ODOUR AND VENTILATION

Wherever the specification allows, we work with premium water-based, low-VOC systems — low odour, kinder to families and pets, faster to recoat, with no compromise in the finish. Rooms are ventilated as coats dry, and most are comfortably usable again the same evening.

Decided in good time, in your light.

The best decisions about colour are made early and unhurried — in the room itself, in the light it actually receives. A colour consultation is included with every commission: considered advice on shades, sheens and paint houses, at no extra cost.

If you are sampling, paint generous patches on two walls — one nearest the window, one away from it — and live with them for a few days, morning and evening. Boards you can move about the room work even better than patches on the wall.

Sheen matters as much as shade: it decides how light falls and how the work wears. As a rule we specify flatter finishes on walls and ceilings, and more durable eggshell or satin on woodwork — three coats minimum — but every surface is set out in your written specification before we begin.



What each stage looks like.

1 · Survey & specification

Every surface assessed, and a written specification follows — the scope, the systems, the finishes and a fixed price.

2 · Protection & preparation

Over half the programme: sheeting, dust-controlled sanding, repairs, and the correct primer for each substrate. This is where the finish is won.

3 · Application

Premium paints in the right conditions, proper drying times, cutting-in by hand, a consistent sheen throughout.

4 · Snagging & handover

A joint walk-through in daylight, touch-ups on the spot, and the home returned clean — with labelled paint and a record of every product used.

5 · The flawless finish

Flat in raking light, crisp at every architrave. Zero snags at handover is the standard, not the aspiration — and our workmanship is guaranteed for twelve months.



Questions before we begin?

We reply within one working day, with honest advice and clear next steps —
a free, no-obligation consultation from a senior decorator, not a call centre.

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