Paint

Staff representatives of the Commission of Architectural Review (CAR) are authorized to assist City Old and Historic District property owners in paint color selection and, where appropriate, grant administrative approval for paint color proposals. If you are considering an exterior color change, please call Commission staff at (804) 646-6335, **as staff approval is required before work can begin.**

The chart of paint colors found below represents a palette of paint colors appropriate for use on historic properties. It has been developed to **guide** property owners and Commission staff in color selection. Colors swatches listed in this document are **suggestions**. All proposed colors will be reviewed by staff on a case-by-case basis. If staff members consider a property owner's preferred colors to be inappropriate, they will forward the proposal to the CAR for full review, noting that administrative approval was not granted. City Old and Historic District Property owners must contact CAR staff in advance of any proposed painting or repainting to gain the proper approval for the proposed work. Touching up existing paint or repainting a building in a City Old and Historic district the same color(s) does not require a COA.

General Guidelines

1. Before painting, use the gentlest means possible to scrape away any loose and peeling paint to the next sound layer.
2. Use of abrasive cleaning methods such as sandblasting and chemical solvents that are destructive to historic building materials are not permitted.
3. High quality paint should be used following directions for preparation and application. A paint professional should be consulted before beginning your project.
4. Semi-gloss paint may be used on all surfaces; enamel "high gloss" paint may be used only on doors.
5. Unpainted masonry must remain unpainted.
6. Body and trim of building must be painted contrasting colors.
7. Fluorescent and highly saturated colors are not appropriate as these were not traditionally used on local historic structures. (The high Victorian "painted ladies" of San Francisco and other western cities represent a phenomenon never adopted in Richmond.)
8. Exterior color selections must complement or be consistent with existing color schemes found in the district. Color schemes that differ from what is typically seen in a district may be approved for new infill construction as a means to differentiate it.
9. Building materials installed as the result of additions may be painted to match or complement a building's existing colors.
10. Most porches are generally painted white or off-white while the handrail of the banister are often painted a darker color.
11. Wrought iron fencing and porch details should be painted a dark color.
12. When coating metal roofs, colors found on historic metal roofs within the district should be used.
13. If you would like additional guidance on period specific colors relating to architectural style, please see *appendix xx (style chart)*.

Guidelines For Masonry and Frame Buildings

Allowed	Not Allowed
Previously Painted Masonry Buildings	
Painting of previously painted masonry only.	Existing unpainted brick and stone <u>must</u> remain unpainted. Do not paint historic brick or stone that has not previously been painted. Painting previously unpainted masonry is historically inaccurate and potentially destructive to historic masonry.
Removal of paint from masonry. Property owners who wish to remove paint from masonry should work with a qualified contractor knowledgeable in the use of non-abrasive cleaners.	Abrasive methods of paint removal including acid washes and sandblasting.
Doors and shutters that are painted a different color than the walls and trim.	Monochromatic color schemes with no contrast between body, trim, and other exterior architectural elements.
Frame Buildings	
Color selections that blend with and complement the overall color schemes on a street.	Monochromatic paint schemes using a single color with little to no contrast between body and trim
Traditional paint schemes that do not use more than two or three colors.	Individual details in cornices and columns should not be emphasized with additional colors.
Doors and shutters that are painted a different color than the walls and trim.	Treating exterior wood elements with clear finishes, unless the element was historically stained or varnished.
Use of opaque stains on pressure-treated wood elements (for example, at new fire stairs, or at rear or side porches).	

Paint Color Selection Examples

The following color selections generally correspond with the recommendations of the City of Richmond's Commission of Architectural Review (CAR). This document is intended to be a guide and, as such, can be expanded or contracted as CAR staff and commissioners find appropriate. The color palette is based on Sherwin Williams-brand colors. The Commission does not promote a specific brand of paint and uses these color codes for reference only. Any paint brand with a comparable paint color may be used. Additional color suggestions by style are included in the Appendix.

SW 2802	SW 2803	SW 2804	SW 2805	SW 2806	SW 2807	SW 2808
SW 2810	SW 2811	SW 2812	SW 2813	SW 2814	SW 2815	SW 2816
SW 2817	SW 2818	SW 2819	SW 2820	SW 2821	SW 2822	SW 2823
SW 2824	SW 2825	SW 2826	SW 2827	SW 2828	SW 2829	SW 2831
SW 2832	SW 2833	SW 2834	SW 2835	SW 2836	SW 2837	SW 2839
SW 2840	SW 2841	SW 2842	SW 2843	SW 2844	SW 2845	SW 2846

SW 2848	SW 2849	SW 2850	SW 2851	SW 2853	SW 2854	SW 2855
SW 2856	SW 2857	SW 2858	SW 2859	SW 2860	SW 2861	SW 2863
SW 7558						
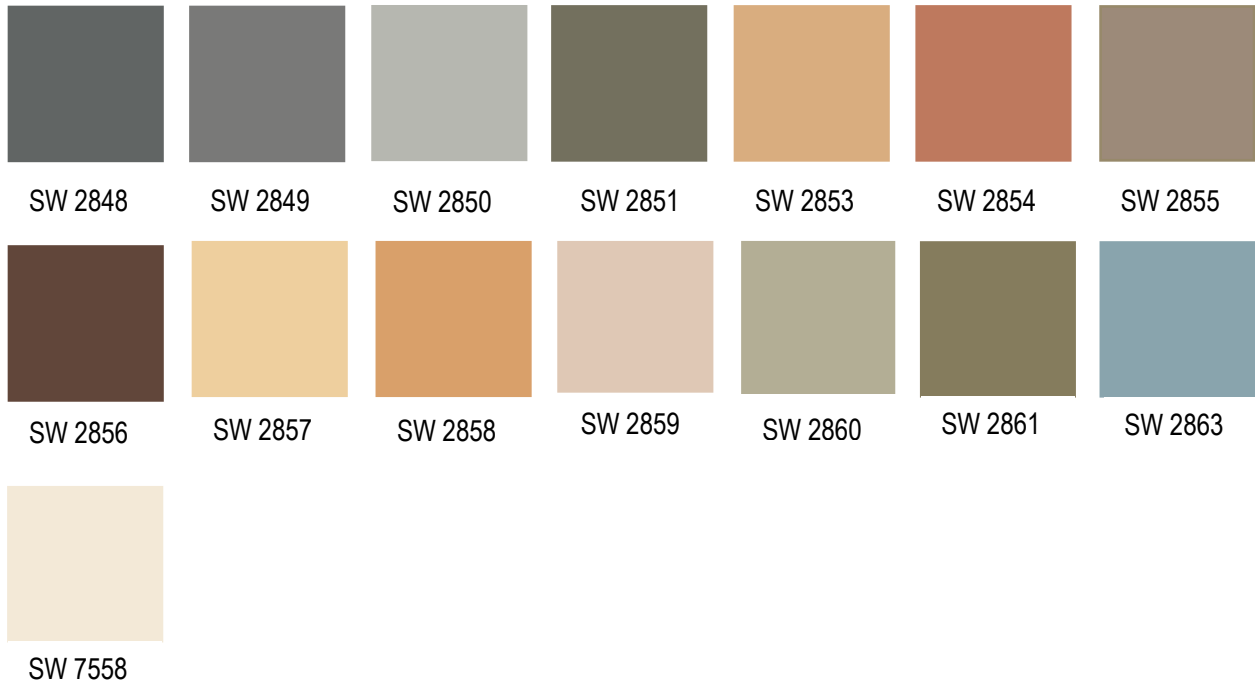
Examples of inappropriate exterior colors

SW 6915	SW 6921	SW 6958	SW 6892	SW 9840	SW 6882	SW 6258

For additional information on maintenance of exterior paint, see page 95 of the *Guidelines.*