



# Careers in Painting & Decorating

*Your guide to training, jobs and opportunities in painting & decorating*

Liverpool & Merseyside | Level 1 to Level 3 | Apprenticeships available



## Why Choose a Career in Painting & Decorating?

- Creative and practical work — transform spaces with colour, texture and design
- High demand trade — needed across residential, commercial and heritage projects
- Good earning potential — starting at £18,000+ with self-employed rates £30,000–£50,000+
- Varied work environment — new projects, meeting clients, working outdoors and indoors
- Quick entry to work — progress from apprentice to qualified decorator in 18 months+
- Entry routes for all — Level 1 courses need no prior qualifications



## Skills and Personal Qualities

- Attention to detail — neat, even finishes and precise lines
- Colour and design sense — creating attractive interior and exterior finishes
- Physical stamina — climbing ladders, working at height, repetitive hand movements
- Problem-solving — dealing with different surfaces, damp, uneven walls
- Customer service — communicating with clients about their requirements
- Health and safety awareness — handling chemicals safely, working on scaffolding



## Useful School Subjects

- Maths — measuring spaces, calculating materials, understanding proportions
- Art & Design — colour theory, design, creating visual effects
- Science — understanding paints, solvents, surface reactions
- PE & Health — physical fitness for a demanding trade



## Local Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

Courses are available at local colleges across Merseyside. Many courses accept students without GCSEs.

### Painting & Decorating Courses (Levels 1 to 3)

- St Helens College — Painting & Decorating L1, L2, L3
- Hugh Baird College — Introduction to Painting & Decorating | L2 Apprenticeship
- Riverside College, Widnes — Painting & Decorating L1 Diploma, L2 Diploma

### SEND-Friendly & Supported Provision

- Supported study options may be available — speak to your careers adviser about what could work for you

## Apprenticeships and Training

- Painting & Decorating Apprenticeship — Level 2 (18 months+)
- Painting & Decorating Professional Apprenticeship — Level 3
- Many local employers offer paid apprenticeships with on-the-job training
- Search live vacancies: [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)
- Supported Internships (for students with an EHCP) are run by local colleges with their selected employer partners — ask your careers adviser whether this route could suit you

## Jobs, Volunteering and Work Experience

Painting and decorating offers quick routes into skilled work and strong self-employment prospects.

Role	Where You Work	Starting Qualification
Trainee Decorator	Painting companies, sites	Level 1–2 or apprenticeship
Qualified Painter & Decorator	Painting companies, contractors	Level 2 NVQ Painting & Decorating
Supervisor / Team Leader	Larger commercial projects	Level 3 + experience
Self-Employed Decorator	Own client base	Level 2 + experience

**Trainees start around £18,000–£22,000. Qualified decorators earn £24,000–£32,000, supervisors £28,000–£38,000, and self-employed decorators £32,000–£50,000+.**

### Work Experience & Volunteering

- Visit college open days to see the workshops and facilities
- Look for local painting companies recruiting apprentices
- Help with decorating projects at home to build practical skills

## Next Steps and Contact Information

- Visit college open days and websites
- Search for local jobs: [www.indeed.co.uk](http://www.indeed.co.uk) | [www.notjustjobs.com](http://www.notjustjobs.com)
- Find apprenticeships: [www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

<b>TAGS Careers</b>	<a href="http://www.tags.careers">www.tags.careers</a> — local careers information and resources
<b>Colleges</b>	St Helens: <a href="http://www.sthelens.ac.uk">www.sthelens.ac.uk</a>   Hugh Baird: <a href="http://www.hughbaird.ac.uk">www.hughbaird.ac.uk</a>   Riverside: <a href="http://www.riversidecollege.ac.uk">www.riversidecollege.ac.uk</a>
<b>More Support</b>	Your careers adviser can provide additional guidance tailored to your needs
<b>Apprenticeships</b>	<a href="http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk">www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk</a>   <a href="http://www.indeed.co.uk">www.indeed.co.uk</a>   <a href="http://www.notjustjobs.com">www.notjustjobs.com</a>