

FILM & TV PROP PAINTERS 2025/26 RATES

BANDED RATES

TV RATES ARE FOR A 10+1 WORKING DAY



	FILM: All films above and below £30 million TV: Band 4 (£7m+) & Band 3 (£3m-£7m)		TV: Band 2 (£850k-£3m)		TV: Band 1 (<£850k)		WEEKLY BOX RENTAL (£)
	DAILY (£)	WEEKLY (£)	DAILY (£)	WEEKLY (£)	DAILY (£)	WEEKLY (£)	
HOD/HEAD PAINTER	420 / NEGOTIABLE	2,100 / NEGOTIABLE	NEGOTIABLE		NO DATA		78.5 / 105
SENIOR PROP PAINTER	365 / 420	1,825 / 2,100	NO DATA		NO DATA	1,890	52.5 / 105
PROP PAINTER	333 / 368	1,665 / 1,840	NO DATA		NO DATA	1,785	60 / 105
MID PROP PAINTER	242 / 295	1,210 / 1,470	NO DATA		NO DATA		NO DATA – NEGOTIATE WITH HOD
JUNIOR PROP PAINTER	200 / 242	1,000 / 1,210	NO DATA		NO DATA		NO DATA – NEGOTIATE WITH HOD

WHY ARE THERE TWO NUMBERS?

All rates have been calculated from data collected by Props branch surveys of its members and members of the wider Props community. For each production and grade there are two numbers (e.g. £950 / £1,250).

MINIMUM DAILY RATE

The first number is the minimum daily rate. This is the rate which our members should under no circumstances accept less than. Should a production insist on rates less than this number, they should be urgently reported to the Props committee or a Bectu official.

STANDARD DAILY RATE

The second number is the standard daily rate. This is the rate which members should be regularly achieving. Before accepting a job, each member should insist on a sum equivalent or higher to the standard rate. Negotiations between members and productions/prop masters should always seek to go beyond the standard rate.

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BAND DESCRIPTIONS



HOD/HEAD PROP PAINTER

Other names: Lead Prop Painter

- Expert knowledge and skill of painting techniques and materials.
- Comfortable delegating tasks and explaining and/or demonstrating techniques.
- Sets up the paint shop and maintains levels of materials and consumables for the entire team.
- Responsible for both the hiring and management of other painters.
- Manages the running, workload and deadline for the entire department.
- Comfortable liaising with senior crew eg. art directors and propmasters.
- Represents the paintshop and is the first point of contact.
- Sets deadlines and is ultimately responsible for the department meeting external deadlines.
- May determine the hours and rates of pay of those working in the paintshop.
- Ensures the ongoing compliance of health and safety in the paintshop.

SENIOR PROP PAINTER

Other names: Chargehand, Supervisor

Where no Head Painter is hired, the Senior Painter's role will be similar to the Head Painter. A Senior Painter maybe the sole painter in a department, however the Senior Painter:

- Should NOT be expected to run a department the size or scale of a Head Painter.
- May be responsible for managing a small team, but only if that team is NOT likely to consist of more than four painters at any point during the production.

If a Head Painter is hired, the Senior Painter(s) is responsible for assisting the Head Painter in:

- Delegating tasks.
- Explaining and/or demonstrating paint techniques to trainee or junior painters.
- Ordering and maintaining levels of stock.
- Upholding health and safety in the paintshop.
- If a Head Painter is hired but is absent, either through being on location, absence, etc, the Senior Painter(s) will be responsible for managing the paintshop in their absence.

PROP PAINTER

Other names: Hand Props Painter, Action Props Painter, Prop Modeller Painter, Prop Hand Artist

- Wide range of knowledge and skill of the majority of painting techniques and materials, including knowledge of specialist skills and equipment such as airbrushes or spray guns.
- Able to generate own paint techniques and processes.
- Works autonomously without supervision from Senior or Head Painters.
- Able to multitask and work to deadlines.
- May be expected to teach/demonstrate techniques to trainees or junior painters but should NOT be expected to manage a team.
- Should assist the Head and/or Senior Painter in day to day running of the paintshop.
- Should NOT be expected to manage the paint department or be the sole painter in a department.

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MID PROP PAINTER

Other names: Assistant Prop Painter, Mid Prop Painter/Modeller, Intermediate Prop Painter

- Has a good level of experience with materials and techniques, but may still require guidance with more complex techniques.
- After being told of a process, they should be expected to complete the task without supervision.
- May be expected to develop and execute their own paint processes.
- Should not be expected to work with hazardous or specialist materials unsupervised.
- May not be expected to own specialised equipment such as compressors, spray guns and air brushes.
- May be asked to teach Juniors and Trainees based on the individual's skills and knowledge.
- May be expected to help maintain a ordering stock.

JUNIOR PROP PAINTER

Other names: Improver

- Has a few years of experience in the industry or is starting in the industry after a relevant qualification and/or work experience, such as Propmaking degree.
- Has a basic knowledge of paints and processes, but may not be familiar with specialist materials and techniques.
- Can follow instructions and replicate some paint processes set by other painters, but will need guidance when attempting more complex paint work.
- Is not expected to work with hazardous or specialist materials unsupervised.
- Is expected to assist all other painters and to actively help maintain a tidy and organised paintshop.

This ratecard is based on data collected from a 2025 survey of painters working in the prop department.

Bectu encourages painters to aim to achieve the highest rates.

Ratecard produced by the Bectu Prop Painters Sub Committee

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