



## Dave Nicholais Owner, GHS Painting LLC



*I'm a contractor for residential and commercial interior painting.*

### **How long have you been a professional painter?**

34 years

### **Where do you work?**

My company is GHS Painting, based in Mendham, NJ.

### **How do you spend most of your time at work?**

I start most days meeting with the customer to go over scheduling and color decisions, and then I review the work to be done with the crew. From there, I may go out to purchase materials and painting supplies for the project, or stay at the site to prep and paint. I also make sure that our customers are happy with the work from the start of a project through the very end.

There's a lot of running around, carrying paint cans and equipment, and going up and down ladders, but I see the job-related aerobic workout as an extra benefit!



*Dave's early years*

### **Why did you choose this career?**

I started painting part-time while working in the real estate field. I found painting to be very satisfying and rewarding, since it let me be creative, work with my hands, and interact with people. At that point, I knew it was what I wanted to do with my life.

#### **DAVE'S FAVORITES**

*I have more than a few favorite books, but these three stand out: Kite Runner, Of Mice and Men, and To Kill a Mockingbird. As for movies, I have too many favorites to list, but I never get tired of Casablanca (1943).*

### **What did you do to prepare for this career?**

I earned a high school diploma, completed trade school training, and gained some related experience in the trades. For my real estate work, I had sales training and related trade certifications.

### **What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Putting smiles on people's faces when they see the finished product! I also like to be active, and in this field, I'm always on the move.

### **What do you find most challenging about your job?**

Scheduling work with deadlines can be difficult.

### **What is one piece of advice you would give to a young person who is interested in your profession?**

Painting can be a great choice if you're not sure which trade is right for you, but working with your hands is something you know you like to do. As a painter, you'll work with all kinds of people, and when you put in the time and effort, it's really enjoyable. Also, if you decide to start your own company, getting business and management skills is a plus.

Whatever you do in life, if you're going to do it for a while, be happy! Remember that practice makes perfect, and enjoy the journey.

