History

One of the UK’s leading painting and decorating contractors, Story has been delivering quality for more than 35 years. Our unrivalled expertise and experience has added the perfect finishing touches to commercial and residential construction projects across the UK.

Whether we’re decorating the luxury rooms of the four star Hilton Hotel in Liverpool, painting superstores for retail giants Tesco and M&S or redecorating an historic listed building, we bring the same commitment, quality and craftsmanship to every job.

We’ve come a long way since our launch in 1974 by our founder Robert Story, but we’ve never forgotten our roots. Robert’s son Rob ensures the family values that were established by his father are still at the heart of the company today. That means delivering a flawless job; on budget, on time, every time.

Perfect Delivery

True and lasting success in business can only be achieved through partnership. In order for us to reach our aspirations, we understand that we have to help our customers achieve theirs. So our relentless commitment to excellence not only maintains our reputation, but ensures our customers are happy too. That means providing the best possible service and quality every time.

Excellence runs throughout our business. Our knowledgeable management team provides strategic leadership on all of our projects, while our highly-skilled craftsmen bring their expertise, commitment and flair at the sharp end. Our specialist project software means we can effectively plan and project manage every job and ensure we keep our customers fully informed as work progresses. This blend of knowledge, skill and technology means we can guarantee the quality of work from inception to the successful delivery of every contract.
Quality Systems

Story is committed to leaving a lasting and positive legacy to the communities in which we work. We use a minimum of 60 per cent local labour to ensure the investment made in painting projects flows through to the local area.

Not only does that offer local people a route into employment, it equips them with skills that will last a lifetime and raises educational and vocational attainment which benefits the wider community.

The nationwide scope of our business means we have built up an unrivalled database of skilled craftsmen throughout the country, ensuring we have a ready-made workforce to call upon in all of the areas in which we serve.

This approach also ensures we reduce travel to work miles, helping us meet our environmental and cost benefit targets.

Communities

Our commitment to the community does not end at the site gate. We use our resources and relationships with key suppliers to provide additional services to members of the community who aren’t on our payroll.

Through our alliance with suppliers, we provide practical support to local businesses and schools. We also offer our resources and expertise to provide paint and painters, free of charge, to decorate or refresh community buildings.

These projects also involve local school-children who are encouraged to pick up a brush, giving them an opportunity to contribute meaningfully to their communities, have fun and pick up lifelong skills.

We find this approach not only gives vital community assets new life, it can also help bring communities together and give young people a real stake in their neighbourhood.
Local Labour

As well as providing the highest quality service to our customers, we also take our commitment to the communities we serve extremely seriously.

Ensuring we do the right thing for the environment, for our workforce and for the wider community is integral to every job we do. That means every project we’re involved in is delivered in a sustainable and responsible manner, using the latest products and techniques.

And we do all of this without taking our eye off the costs.

All of our processes and products must meet our exacting quality management system, which complies with the stringent ISO 9001 quality requirements.

We are committed members of the Painting and Decorating Association - the national benchmark for quality throughout the sector.

Workforce

We operate on the principle that you’re never too experienced to learn and improve. Every one of our employees, from our apprentices right up to our management team, are expected to continue developing their skills right through their careers.

Our reputation depends on their performance, so we continually devote ourselves to ensuring quality standards remain at the highest level possible. We undertake regular workforce development reviews to ensure we identify training needs and deliver additional upskilling as required.

We invest in our people and ensure all staff have achieved the industry standard CSCS status. As CSCS card holders, our workforce is equipped with the highest level of safety awareness and technical competence.

We adopt a positive equality and diversity policy and ensure all staff are treated fairly and have an equal access to opportunities.
Health & Safety

We are committed to carrying out all projects in a manner that safeguards the health, welfare and safety of our employees, partners and clients. We adopt stringent and industry-leading health and safety procedures across all sites and projects and work alongside key clients and contractors to integrate seamlessly with individual health and safety campaigns and initiatives.

We are a CHAS accredited contractor and our site supervisors hold the Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) qualification to ensure health, safety and welfare on construction sites. Our staff are IOSH trained and adhere to strict company guidelines for safe working practices to reduce the risk of accidents and incidents on site.

We are a FIRAS approved contractor authorised to apply and certify intumescent coatings through our specialist division Fire Protective Coatings UK.

Environment

We take our environmental responsibility very seriously and have implemented procedures and practices that create minimal impact on the environment. We use partners that have similar sustainable products, processes and responsible attitudes. Our core team of site management and painters are sited locally to minimise travel and we have multiple occupancy vehicles to reduce mileage.

The disposal of waste is always limited and we aim to recycle whenever possible. Where appropriate, spray application of paint is used to limit waste and we treat waste water and paint washings on site for re-use using an environmental wash system. In partnership with paint manufacturers, we offer clients a recycling facility, returning empty paint tins to the nearest agent.

Story has been awarded the CBEN Gold Award for efforts in reducing our environmental impact.
Apprenticeships

Young people are at the heart of everything we do at Story. Ensuring the next generation of technicians is equipped with the skills and knowledge to drive our company forward is integral to our business strategy.

That’s why we have committed to a guarantee that a minimum of 10 per cent of our workforce are apprentices. We harness the energy and enthusiasm those young people provide to drive the innovation and invention we need to stay ahead of the opposition.

Our apprentices are not only given the skill sets they need to produce the highest quality work, they are also inspired to nurture the drive and ambition required to reach the very top of the industry.

Each apprentice is given a training pathway so they understand completely the quality standards they must reach to help us deliver excellence to our customers.

Developing Careers

For our business to continue to grow and develop, we must attract and retain the best and the brightest talent. We understand that to achieve that, we must play our part in inspiring the next generation to join our industry.

We are committed to working with education providers to promote painting and decorating as the desirable and rewarding career we know it is.

Our highly successful apprentice open days, run in conjunction with colleges and training providers, give young people a priceless insight into the opportunities available in the painting sector.

We open up our site to engage youngsters and inspire them to consider careers - with career opportunities available in not just painting and decorating, but also joinery, electrical and general construction.
Painting & Decorating

Our painting teams are some of the most experienced in the industry and their expertise has come from a wide range of high quality jobs across a range of commercial and business sectors. Our core services are painting and decorating but it’s the attention to detail and teamwork which ensures Story will deliver on time.

We deliver painting works across a range of industries and have experience with the latest products and systems. Our teams strive for perfect delivery and we match the best skills with each contract.

At Story we have the expertise to deliver some of the UK’s largest commercial painting projects but also the detail and focus to carefully carry out bespoke painting and heritage works.
The use of airless spray painting has helped to increase efficiency within the painting industry and we use this process whenever possible to help reduce costs for our clients.

Our operatives are fully trained to use spray systems which deliver an improved quality finish through a more evenly distributed application.

The airless system is perfect for commercial and industrial use as the coating penetrates better into crevices, produces a uniform thick coating and delivers a moist coating which ensures good adhesion to the surface.

Spray painting reduces drying time and decreases the amount of solvent released into the atmosphere.
Our innovative spray plaster system is both time and cost effective. The system not only saves money but removes waste from the process, has added environmental advantages and reduces risk factors associated with quality control and health and safety.

There are direct material cost savings of 5.7% against traditional plastering and because of reduce moisture content, drying can take around half the time.

The system also produces less contaminated dirty water and when used in conjunction with our painting services, ensures a seamless transition between the plastering and painting processes.
Fire Protection

Through our dedicated division, Fire Protective Coatings UK, Story can offer fire protective and intumescent coatings with a specified time rating to provide protection for key building structures.

We calculate the loadings needed to deliver the require levels of protection and apply the coating by airless spray, roller and brush. Our operatives carry out periodic wet film thickness testing to ensure the correct levels have been applied.

We are a FIRAS approved contractor and are authorised to provide certification for clients. Our processes are independently audited on an annual basis to ensure the highest levels of quality and safety.

Instant Floor Coatings

We are pioneering an exciting new concept in floor coatings which, through a unique instant, ultra-violet drying system, means floor surfaces can be used just minutes after painting.

The high-performance system is revolutionising commercial floor painting by eliminating down time associated with drying.

The system is an excellent choice for facilities which require a fast return to service with the product being durable and eco-friendly with low odour.

The paint dries instantly using a mobile ultra-violet light machine and is solvent-free with near zero volatile organic compound emissions.
Retail Painting Case Studies

**Contract**: Tesco Widnes  
**Contractor**: Britannia  
**Details**: Painting & Decorating

This new-build Tesco retail store saw Story deliver some core retail painting and decorating services. Initially we spray painted the steelwork to the ceilings in addition to over-spraying the metal soffits. All interior emulsion was applied in line with the current Tesco design standards.

Externally we applied primer, undercoat and gloss to all high-level steelwork fronting the building and painted all concrete soffits and steelwork in the underground car park.

**Contract**: Tesco Horwich  
**Contractor**: Patton  
**Details**: Fire Protection, Painting & Decorating

Fire protective coatings were applied by airless spray to steelwork at this new Tesco store. As a FIRAS registered contractor, we provided FIRAS certification for the time-based fire protection application.

We also delivered painting and decorating works to interior walls, steelwork and blockwork.
This time-sensitive project centered around refreshing a huge part of a Pirelli tyre factory during their Christmas shutdown period and demanded a large number of painting teams working around the clock. We started by erecting huge screens to protect the tyre machines during the painting works and then spent a significant period of time preparing all surfaces by cleaning and degreasing.

We deployed teams of painters who used specialist spray machines with extra long lances and high level access to reach between the intricate system of industrial pipes.

Mechanical grinders were used to prepare floors before industrial epoxy paint was applied to all floor surfaces.

Zinsser Allcoat was used to deliver a robust covering and the newly refreshed building not only created a new clean working environment to boost staff morale but resulted in a much brighter interior – helping to cut down on lighting and energy costs.

Painting was also undertaken to office areas and ceiling tiles were oversprayed to refresh administrative areas.
Education Painting Case Study

Contract: Josephine Butler Ashington Academy  
Contractor: Kier Major Projects  
Details: Painting & Decorating, Spray Plaster

This massive new-build academy really showcased our innovation with regards to efficiency and cost-saving. We used our new spray plaster system to save time and then our painting teams applied emulsion to all plastered areas - cutting out problems associated with trade interaction.

We also saved time by working closely with joiners to pre-coat wood, including door frames and skirting boards, with undercoat before their use.

Emulsions were applied using airless spray systems and undercoat and gloss was applied to all internal high-level steelwork, external steelwork and around glass ballistrades.
The specific layered nature of this unique building meant it required extremely skilled painting operatives to paint high-level atrium areas and internal steelwork at the very top of the atrium in reception.

Specialist high-level access equipment was used to reach the various floors and levels across the three atrium areas.

Classrooms were undercoated and painted with emulsion and gloss while specialist painting skills were required in various classrooms and bespoke training areas.

Internal blockwork in dedicated rooms was applied with emulsion for a tough long-term finish.
Hotel Painting Case Study

**Contract:** Hilton Hotel, Beetham Tower  
**Contractor:** Carillion  
**Details:** Painting & Decorating

The Hilton Beetham Tower was one of our biggest and most prestigious contracts. The 11-month project saw painting applied to all 265 hotel bedrooms and all the residential apartments above the hotel.

We used satin wood finish on all wood work and clear sealer on the large concrete columns throughout the building. Vinyl wall coverings were applied across meeting rooms, conference and atrium areas. Sterisheen hygenic coating emulsions were used throughout kitchen areas while ultra white rock was applied throughout all bath and washroom areas.

At its peak, we had over 50 operatives on site.
Warehouse Painting Case Study

Details: Painting & Decorating

Our specialist spray painting skills and commercial expertise ideally place us to paint warehouses and industrial units. We can efficiently and safely apply fire protective coatings and spray paint to high-level steel and metal work, both internal and external, and overspray cladding and ceilings.

Our state-of-the-art ultra-violet floor paint system ensures minimum down-time in your factory, warehouse or production facility as it dries in a matter of minutes.

Our tough industrial and epoxy paint systems ensure a long-term finish to warehouses in daily use while we can apply traditional emulsion and painting to offices, ceilings and administrative blocks.

This project was a new-build but our tough paints are also ideal for refurbishment and refreshing.
Leisure Painting Case Study

**Contract:** St Helens Rugby Football Club  
**Contractor:** Barr  
**Details:** Painting & Decorating

This new-build sports stadium saw us apply dust-proof sealer to all concrete areas and the entire concrete concourse throughout the stadium floors and walls.

We undertook ames taping of platerboard walls and applied emulsion to interior and office areas. Our team painted and sealed all hard-wood timber, painted exposed steelwork and applied a durable emulsion to all blockwork walls throughout the public and circulation areas. We also applied epoxy paints to plantroom floors and yellow nosings to all concrete steps. Painting works were carried out over 10 weeks with 30 personnel to help meet the deadlines.
This 18th century Cumbrian castle demanded some specialist skills from our painting teams. Limewash was applied to newly refurbished ceilings, walls and to a restaurant area.

We undertook full restoration of wood by stripping off laquer, sanding and coating with Danish oil. 18th century stable doors were restored and we had to skilfully match up new and existing woodwork.

Feature walls were treated with lime plaster and painted with casein distemper limewash while staff areas and kitchens had traditional emulsion applied to carefully merge the new and existing surfaces.