



Benjamin Moore®

THE
COLOUR
HANDBOOK

A Guide to Selecting Colour

THE COLOUR HANDBOOK



Using several shades of one hue will unify a space visually. A monochromatic scheme is a good choice in a room that's broken up by shelving, trim, and doors.

BOOKCASE: Lucerne AF-530,
ADVANCE®, Semi-Gloss
DOOR: Soot 2129-20, Aura® Grand
Entrance, Satin
BACK OF SHELVES: Exhale AF-515,
REGAL® Select, Ulti-Matte

CHOOSING YOUR COLOUR

Colour really does make the room. The perfect shade and finish can enlarge a small space, bring in more light, or deliver that kick of energy you need with your morning coffee. But finding the right one? Now that's another story.

Thankfully, a few guidelines can ease the process. After all, you want to love the colours you live with.



Nothing clears your head like an all-white room. A soothing palette of white, cream, and off-white creates a calm, airy backdrop and will highlight the play of light across every surface, making the space feel bigger and brighter.

WALLS: Lancaster Whitewash HC-174, Aura®, Eggshell TRIM: Swiss Coffee OC-45, Aura® Semi-Gloss. CEILING: Chantilly Lace OC-65, Waterborne Ceiling Paint, Ultra Flat

Greayed-down pales often play well together. Here, a neutral grey alcove distinguishes itself against a pale blue room.



NEAR WALL: Palladian Blue HC-144, Benjamin Moore Natura™, Eggshell
ALCOVE: Sag Harbour Gray HC-95, Benjamin Moore Natura™, Eggshell
TRIM: Swiss Coffee OC-45, Benjamin Moore Natura™, Semi-Gloss

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO START?

Dividing colours into three simple categories—pales, neutrals, and deeps—is an easy way to make the magnificent spectrum a little more manageable.

PALES

LIGHT AND AIRY COMBINATIONS
TO UPLIFT YOU

Ballet pink, dusty lavender, washed-out blue—a gentle, pale palette is versatile and easy to live with. If a pale colour starts to look too sugary sweet, just tone it down with a little grey.

NEUTRALS

NATURAL COMBINATIONS
TO KEEP YOU GROUNDED

Slate, clay, sand, ochre—neutrals go far beyond grey and brown. These colours of the earth are real shape-shifters. To combine neutrals, look for its undertone—is it warm or cool—and keep its partner in the same family.

DEEPS

MYSTERIOUS COMBINATIONS
TO INTRIGUE YOU

Violet, onyx, sapphire, ruby—these confident colours create instant character and dominate a room. They dissolve boundaries and edges, creating intimacy and the perception of depth.

Many neutrals have a chameleon-like quality, shifting in colour slightly with changing light, making them a good choice for kitchens and other rooms used throughout the day.



WALLS: Fernwood Green 2145-40, REGAL® Select, Eggshell
DOORS: Witching Hour 2120-30, Aura®
Grand Entrance, Satin
CABINETS: Flora AF-470, ADVANCE®, Pearl

Spaces you use occasionally, like a library or powder room, can provide the perfect opportunity to go bold.



WALLS: Chambourd AF-645, Aura®, Matte
MANTEL: Smoke Gray 2120-40, ADVANCE®, Pearl

DIRECT SUNLIGHT

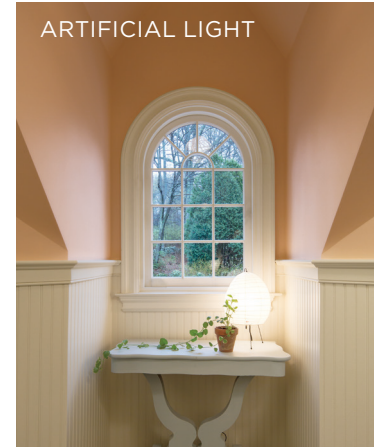


THE THEATRE OF LIGHT

OVERCAST DAYLIGHT



ARTIFICIAL LIGHT



Colour is site-specific. That's why you should always try out a shade in the space and view it at different times of the day before committing. A pale pink room will look gleaming in the direct sunlight of a south-facing room, and cooler and more muted in indirect northern light.

Time of day matters, too. Bright midday sun will wash out most pale hues (left) that will be flattered by softer, indirect illumination (above, left), while artificial light will add a warm glow to the wall colour (above, right).

WALLS: Dream Whip 2174-60,
REGAL® Select, Ultra-Matte
WAINSCOTING: Mascarpone
AF-20, REGAL® Select, Eggshell

SHEEN Don't shy away from sheen—trust us, it can work magic on a room. Painting the walls with a gloss will add dimension and levity. Or try a semi-gloss on a low ceiling—it will move light around the space and create the illusion of height. Just remember: Shiny finishes look best on smooth, clean surfaces while matte or flat paints are the most forgiving of imperfections, so choose your surface wisely.



WALLS: Cloud White OC-130, Aura®, Semi-Gloss
TRIM: Cloud White OC-130, ADVANCE®, High Gloss

A glossy finish lightens up a dark hue, multiplying the flicker and romance of candlelight or the glow of a street lamp outside the window.



WALLS AND TRIM: Newburyport Blue HC-155, Aura®, Semi-Gloss

To make a statement and draw the eye through the house, use a bold hue at one end of a room-to-room view.

FAR WALL: Dinner Party AF-300, REGAL® Select, Semi-Gloss FAR DOORS: Dinner Party AF-300, Aura® Grand Entrance, High Gloss, MID WALL, UPPER AREA: Onyx White OC-74, REGAL® Select, Eggshell LOWER AREA: Chantilly Lace OC-65, REGAL® Select, Semi-Gloss MID AND NEAR DOORS: Chantilly Lace OC-65, Aura® Grand Entrance, Satin, NEAR WALL: Mt. Rainier Gray 2129-60, REGAL® Select, Eggshell

ROOM THROUGH ROOM



LEFT WALL: Azores AF-495, ben®, Eggshell
MANTEL: Ashley Gray HC-87, ben®, Eggshell
RIGHT WALL: Gloucester Sage HC-100, ben®, Eggshell

In an open-plan home, use different colours to define different spaces and highlight interesting architecture. But always keep the big picture in mind. The simplest way to keep things harmonious is to combine shades of the same colour—or similar tones—from room to room..

WHOEVER SAID
TRIM HAD TO BE
WHITE OR CREAM?

Switch things up by pairing neutral walls with a coloured trim. Or for an extra-crisp effect, try jet black. The role reversal will showcase a room's unique architecture.

WALLS: Frostine AF-5, REGAL® Select, Eggshell
WAINSCOTING AND TRIM: Frostine AF-5, REGAL® Select, Semi-Gloss ACCENT TRIM: Black Satin 2131-10, REGAL® Select, Semi-Gloss DOOR: Frostine AF-5, Aura® Grand Entrance, Satin

ROOM-DEFINING TRIM



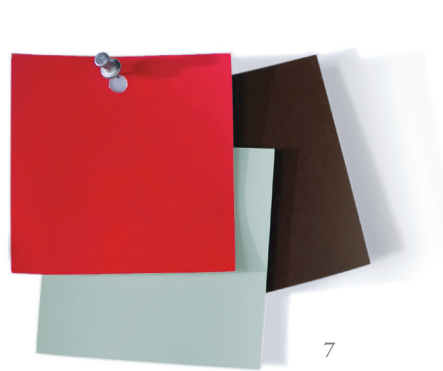
Create architectural interest by painting the walls with different shades of one colour. Keep the darker hue closer to the bottom for an ombre effect.

OUR FAVOURITE



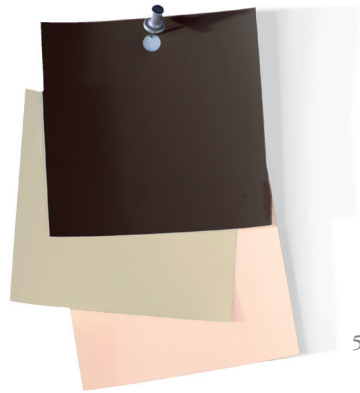
COLOUR COMBINATIONS

Coming up with the right colour palette can be tough, so we've put together some tried-and-true trios that strike a chord. Try the top colour on the walls, the middle shade on trim, door or ceiling, and the third hue as an accent in accessories, fabric or on painted furniture.





4



5



6



10



11



12



16



17



18

1. MAIN COLOUR:
Porcelain 2113-60
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Filtered Sunlight 2154-60
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Appalachian Brown 2115-10

2. MAIN COLOUR:
Coral Essence 2007-40
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Old Navy 2063-10
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Fountain Spout 2059-70

3. MAIN COLOUR:
Louisburg Green HC-113
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Lancaster Whitewash HC-174
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Tangy Orange 2014-30

4. MAIN COLOUR:
Blue Angel 2058-70
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Arctic Blue 2050-60
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Sea Foam 2123-60

5. MAIN COLOUR:
Mississippi Mud 2114-20
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Grant Beige HC-83
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Dream Whip 2174-60

6. MAIN COLOUR:
Windmill Wings 2067-60
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Chelsea Gray HC-168
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Simply White OC-117

7. MAIN COLOUR:
Million Dollar Red 2003-10
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Wedgewood Gray HC-146
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Bittersweet Chocolate 2114-10

8. MAIN COLOUR:
Gray Owl 2137-60
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Pale Vista 2029-60
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Cedar Green 2034-40

9. MAIN COLOUR:
Cinnamon Slate 2113-40
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Hibiscus 2027-50
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Dark Linen 2147-60

10. MAIN COLOUR:
Cranberry Cocktail 2083-20
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Oxford Gray 2128-40
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Lily White 2128-70

11. MAIN COLOUR:
Revere Pewter HC-172
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Straw 2154-50
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Amherst Gray HC-167

12. MAIN COLOUR:
Montpelier AF-555
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Prescott Green HC-140
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Apricot Ice 2015-70

13. MAIN COLOUR:
Bronze Tone 2166-30
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Mayonnaise 2152-70
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Soot 2129-20

14. MAIN COLOUR:
Purple Lotus 2072-30
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Stuart Gold HC-10
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Witching Hour 2120-30

15. MAIN COLOUR:
Cement Gray 2112-60
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Fruit Shake 2088-60
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Witching Hour 2120-30

16. MAIN COLOUR:
Atmospheric AF-500
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Old Prairie 2143-50
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Beacon Hill Damask HC-2

17. MAIN COLOUR:
Ebony Slate 2118-30
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Lavender Mist 2070-60
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Chantilly Lace OC-65

18. MAIN COLOUR:
Teal Ocean 2049-30
1ST ACCENT COLOUR:
Hawthorne Yellow HC-4
2ND ACCENT COLOUR:
Simply White OC-117

COLOUR BASICS

Primary Colours

Red, yellow, blue—these core colours form the spokes of the wheel, mixing and matching to create every other shade on the spectrum. Alone, they can be too strong to use. Take these super-saturated hues down a notch with a hint of grey or white to make them more approachable.

Complementary Colours

Colour pairings from opposite sides of the wheel have serious chemistry. Choose one shade for the walls and use a small amount of its complementary hue as an accent on trim, doors, or a piece of furniture. Like any great couple, they'll each play up the other's strengths.

Secondary and Tertiary Colours

The secondary and tertiary colours round out the colour wheel with varying degrees of complexity. Orange, green and violet are secondary colours made by combining two primary hues, while tertiary colours are the middlemen between the primary and secondary colours. Together, the relationships on the colour wheel offer endless options.

Take a moment to study the colour wheel. The science is all in this circle—warm reds, yellows, and oranges congregate on one side while cool lavenders, blues, and greens are on the other. Creating a palette within one half of the wheel tends to be more harmonious. But pairing two colours that stand opposite one another can add a dash of invigorating tension. Which do you prefer?



TEST DRIVE YOUR COLOUR

Before you commit, buy a pint sample so you can see how the colour looks in the actual room. Paint a board, place in different parts of the room and watch how the colour changes throughout the day. Does it grow bright and airy in the morning and then sepia-toned near dusk? Does it take on the tone of something out the window?

Live with it a little. This way, you can find the colour that works for you, morning to night.



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