new

Ideal Home's COMPLETE GUIDE TO COLOUR

Pick your perfect palette

122 PAGES OF COLOUR INSPO

DISCOVER THE FAILSAFE COLOUR PAIRINGS, AS WELL AS WHERE (AND HOW) TO USE THEM

Digital Edition

FUTURE

SECOND EDITION

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Ideal Home's COMPLETE GUIDE TO COLOUR

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Welcome

Colour is hugely subjective. Whether you love bright, bold schemes or you prefer a more pared-back look, there's no denying that colour plays an important role in our lives. Not only does it help us to express our personalities, but the colours we surround ourselves with tend to affect our moods, too – they can calm or invigorate, help you focus or encourage creativity. Choosing the right colour schemes for your home can be a bit daunting – the orientation of a room or the way we use the space can all affect our chosen shades. To help you negotiate this decorative minefield and to take the guesswork out of choosing the perfect palette, we've curated a kaleidoscope of inspiring colour schemes in this book, from contrasting combinations to tonal mixes, all with invaluable advice on where and how to use them. Happy decorating!

Ginevra

GINEVRA BENEDETTI, EDITOR, COMPLETE GUIDE TO COLOUR

The content in this book is aimed at providing decorating inspiration for your home, including paint, wallpaper, fabric, furniture, homeware and accessories. While specific products are referenced within the book, the price and availability of these products was correct at the time of original publication, but may have changed since.

Ideal Home's

COMPLETE GUIDE TO COLOUR

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Colour wheel

CREATE YOUR OWN FAILSAFE COLOUR COMBOS P130



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PHOTOGRAPH FUTURECONTENTHUB.COM/ DOMINIC BLACKMORE

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DISCOVER HOW TO DECORATE USING THE BOLD COLOUR OF YOUR CHOICE

see p12







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| COLOUR EDIT |

Sunshine yellow

IF YOUR ROOM DOESN'T GET MUCH LIGHT, USE THIS GLOWING, GOLDEN TONE AND TURN A GLOOMY SPACE INTO A WARM AND WELCOMING ONE

This shade looks naturally gorgeous with wood and neutral tones. Walls in Indian Yellow absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'After a turbulent few years, yellows have seen renewed popularity. It's a shade that provides a sense of positivity, helping us feel uplifted, happy and energised. For a real burst of joyful colour, pair Indian Yellow walls with the bold-green Hopper on skirting for an inviting interior.'
RUTH MOTTERSHEAD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

'Don't forget that a yellow wall can easily be broken up by artwork or a mirror and, if you're not sure about the colour, try introducing it on smaller areas, such as a woodwork trim, a favourite piece of furniture or the inside of a cupboard.'
DOMINIC MYLAND, MANAGING DIRECTOR, MYLANDS

'Zoning an area with a block of yellow can lift a neutral space, creating focus and a little dose of happiness, especially in a cool north-facing room. Sunshine yellow can be a brave choice, so try a warm sand or rich ochre for a more subtle look.'
ANNA HILL, BRAND DIRECTOR, FENWICK & TILBROOK

'This golden yellow looks great with white or grey, but try teaming it with a chalky pink. Adding a touch of grey will tone down the yellow/pink combo, especially if you're not keen on hard contrasts.'
NICKY PHILLIPS, INTERIOR STYLIST & DESIGNER

'A palette of chalky yellows will reflect any available sunlight. For added depth, try a livelier shade of yellow on a wall that is at right angles to a window, and yellow on the window surround.'
JUSTYNA KORCZYNSKA, SENIOR DESIGNER, CROWN

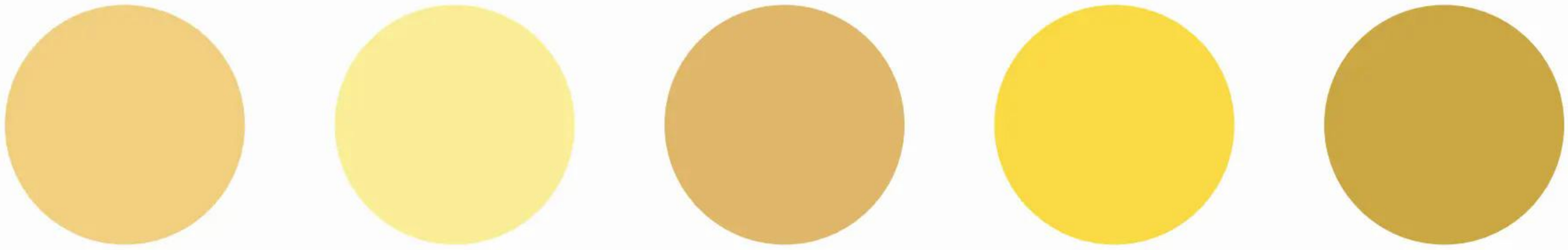
'If you don't want to paint all four walls, pair yellow with a more muted colour. Grey is a perfect partner, toning down the vibrancy. Or use yellow as an accent, with walls in a neutral or grey and the ceiling, woodwork or door in warm mustard Muga.
ANDY GREENALL, HEAD OF DESIGN, PAINT & PAPER LIBRARY



Framed artwork sings out against yellow. Wall in Pimlico No136, marble matt emulsion, Mylands

> "Pair with **CONTRASTING** black and blue for **DRAMA**, or with pale pinks and leafy greens for a **HARMONIOUS** effect"
>
> **LEE CLARKE**, DIRECTOR, WARNER HOUSE

the edit SUNSHINE YELLOW



BEST FOR SMALL SPACES
Citron estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball

BEST FOR PAIRING WITH NEUTRALS
Happy Daze matt emulsion, Crown

BEST FOR SUNNY AND SHADY ROOMS
Yellow 03 matt emulsion, Lick

BEST FOR ACCENT DETAILS
Passionate Yellow matt emulsion, from YesColour

BEST FOR TEAMING WITH GREYS
Lioness ultra matt emulsion, Graham & Brown



Walls in Verdure Yellow marble matt emulsion, Mylands. Anoki Black rattan **chairs**, Maisons du Monde, are similar. Rosa linen **tablecloth**, LinenMe

Yellow & blossom pink

THESE FLORAL FAVOURITES WILL BRING JOY TO YOUR HOME

WORK WITH YOUR LIGHT Yellow automatically invites light into your space. Even darker rooms become warm and welcoming with a touch of yellow. That said, make sure you use your natural light to select the right colour for the mood you want to create. In north-facing rooms, you want to bounce light around, so stick to 'true' yellows, steering clear of any with a green or blue undertone. In south-facing rooms light becomes warmer, meaning deep yellows will be intensified, so it depends how warm or bright you want to make your space.

THINK PINK Touches of pretty pinks tone down the scheme without losing any of its fresh and cheerful nature. Stick to beige or brown-based pinks for a grown-up springtime vibe. You don't need much to add impact; even a few key items picked out in pinks will do the trick.

ADD COOL CONTEMPORARY TOUCHES Keep things on the modern side by offering breathing room for the pastels. Think blond woods, fresh green houseplants and graphic prints. Slices of strong black will set the scheme off to perfection.

Try it... in a kitchen

Paler yellows are perfect in a kitchen as you won't get tired of them – always important to bear in mind with rooms you spend lots of time in. Black details create a bold look, although you could opt for softer white or grey. Bring in pinks on linens rather than paint for a more subtle scheme.

Try it... in a bedroom

Make energising yellows more restful come evening by painting the upper two-thirds of walls in a calming white. Pink linens and the pink tones in natural woven rattan blend perfectly with this colour combination.



Walls in Mustard Jar matt emulsion; Pure Brilliant White matt emulsion, both Crown. Selin **headboard**, Made, is similar. Geometric print **throw** in Ochre, Matalan, has a similar print

“Energy-boosting sunshine yellows will help get you kickstarted in the morning”

Get the look



Add some fruity fun to your walls. Tutti Frutti wallpaper in Soft Pinks, Lust Home

+



Drape sunshine around your room. Islington fabric in Sandlewood, Prestigious Textiles

+

A pale yellow works wonderfully in kitchens. Lemon Spirit matt emulsion, Dulux

ADD AN ACCENT
GREY



These cute planters will add a strong but subtle contrast. Charcoal grooved mini planters, The Northern Line



Telford **console**, Very, is a good match. Type 75 desk **lamp** in Sienna, Anglepoise

Mustard & charcoal

CONTEMPORARY STYLE MEETS CHEERFUL VIBES WITH THIS UPLIFTING COLOUR COMBO

FIND THE PERFECT YELLOW While yellows look lovely in all forms, to make this scheme both modern and warm, you'll want to stick to mustards, deep golds and ochres. Paler tones have a tendency to feel wishy-washy and lack impact next to dark grey.

MIX IN CHARCOAL The deepest greys create a bold contrast to mellow yellows. Treat mustard as your dominant colour. Charcoal is most effective here when used in moderation – think sleek trimmings, accents and accessories.

FINISH WITH CRISP WHITES To really up the ante, work in slices of bright white. Either add to sections of the walls and floor, or include in decorative accessories to give breathing space between the mustard and charcoal tones.

WORK IN RETRO PRINTS The classic combination of greys and yellows was really popular in the 1960s and 1970s. Back then, it was typically with buttercup and smoke tones. For a contemporary upgrade, use bold, retro graphics in the deeper, more daring variations of these colours.

'Try it... in a home office

In an office you need both colour to add joy to the working day, as well as calming whites to keep you focused. Including furniture with sleek charcoal lines will add that contemporary smart, sophisticated touch.

'Try it... in a kitchen

The enlivening power of yellow makes it a perfect choice for kitchens – helping to boost energy levels even on the dullest of mornings. Cover walls and cabinetry in ochre and use deep greys on hardware and accessories to create a smart and tailored finish.

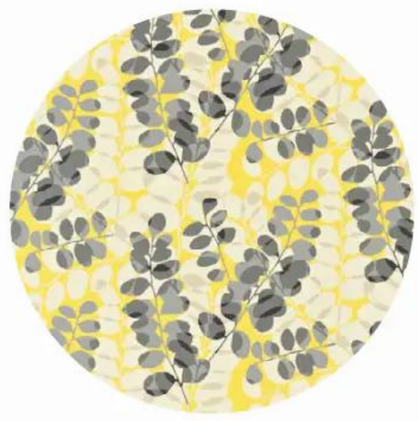


Get the look



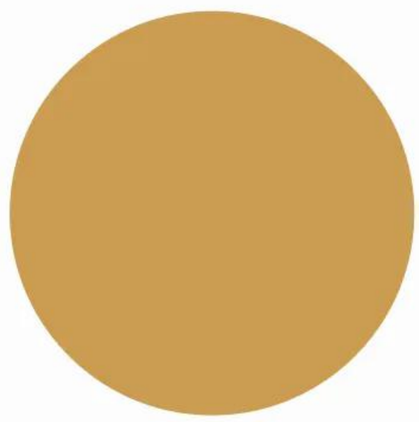
Bring a two-tone mustard look to your walls. Opus Ochre 36 wallpaper, Arley House

+



This retro print will make a perfect accent piece. Lunaria fabric in Cream, Sunflower & Gull, Scion

+



Brighter mustards bring a modern twist. Carnaby Yellow wall paint, Annie Sloan

ADD AN ACCENT
COBALT BLUE



Bursts of bright blue add contrast to deep yellows. Bobby Classic Blue Cobalt cushion, Ragged Rose

> “Paint the insides of your cupboards for extra daily cheer”

Ceiling and **walls** in Giallo in intelligent matt emulsion; **cupboard** in 337 in intelligent satinwood, both Little Greene



COLOUR blocking

TRENDS COME AND GO, BUT HERE'S HOW TO GIVE THIS LOOK TIMELESS APPEAL

Walls in Mustard Jar; On The Rocks, both matt emulsion, Crown Paints. Arundel six-seater oak **dining table**; oak bench, both Neptune. Try Sussex Shaker **cupboard**, Cotswold Co. **Curtains** in Asolo linen in Clay, Romo. For similar **table linen**, try Linen.Me

STYLE DIRECTION

"For this look, using paint, fabric, a rug or a single piece of furniture is an easy way to make a statement"

WONDER WALLS

Divide an area along an imaginary picture or dado rail and contrast white or a neutral with a bright colour above

Fireplace in Chartreuse Charm **paint** mixing eggshell, Dulux. Joules Patterdale three-seater **sofa** in Marine, DFS. Try Dana **rug** in Eau de Nil, Cox & Cox

STYLE DIRECTION

> “For a softer effect, combine pale shades of blush pink or sky blue with a bright primary colour”

FOCAL POINT

Paint your fire surround in a bright, happy shade and soften the look with accessories and a relaxed floral display.



CHOOSE A SIGNATURE COLOUR

Using a hero colour for this blocking technique is key to the success of your scheme. Whether it's a go-to primary of yellow, red or deep blue, or a bold secondary colour, such as fuchsia pink or burnt orange, choose a single tone that will make your heart sing.

PICK THE RIGHT ACCENT

Once you have chosen your main colour, decide on the palette that will accompany it. This can be complementary colours, harmonious ones or contrasting shades for extra impact. Use a colour wheel, which shows the relationships between colours, to help you plan your scheme.

CREATE A SHAPE

When deciding which area to paint, you don't always need to stick to the feature itself. Extending the colour to form an interesting shape lends further design detail. For example, paint above a door to create an additional arch, or add a scalloped edge to a plain stripe.

HIGHLIGHT ARCHITECTURE

One of the great things about colour blocking is that you can bring attention to classic details or period features. Painting a ceiling together with its coving in a statement colour and leaving the rest of the room in a simple pared-back palette is an interior design favourite.

RAY OF SUNSHINE

Enhance an architectural feature, like this window recess, with a shot of colour. Use the right paint for the surfaces, such as the wall and the wood panelling, shown here.

STYLE DIRECTION

“The technique is as simple as pairing contrasting colours or pattern to create bold focal points”

Wall in Mustard Jar matt emulsion, Crown Paints. Jean Mid-century **armchair,** Perch & Parrow

SIMPLE TOUCH

There is no need for all-over colour in a room when a single splash will do. Pick out one feature to accentuate, such as this exquisite bed frame.

Laurel **wallpaper** in Washed Sage, Anna Jeffreys. Enfield **four-poster** in Shaker Yellow, Shaker of Malvern. Similar **lamp**, Rosi de Ruig

Chartreuse

THIS PRETTY YELLOW-GREEN WILL FRESHEN AND LIFT ANY ROOM SCHEME

WHERE TO USE IT Anywhere you want to brighten up a space and feel invigorated. Try it in a gloomy west-facing kitchen or bathroom to give it a boost in the morning, or use it on the walls in a hallway for a lively and welcoming look.

HOW TO USE IT Team this tone with a pure white or a white with a greenish tint to keep the feel fresh. It can look cold, so balance it out with lots of warm wood on flooring and furniture. It's light enough to put on all four walls, or try it on two, with the others in a matching wallpaper to break up the plainness.

STYLE IT OUT The accent colour you choose to pair with chartreuse will be the making of it, so go for black if you want a more grown-up serious look, or be playful with an unexpected shot of baby pink on accessories. It lends itself to a country style, too, but also looks contemporary with white gloss finishes if you have a minimalist bent.

Try it... in a dining room

This is a great colour if your dining area looks out on to your garden, as it will visually connect the two spaces. It's also fresh enough to work in a kitchen-diner.

Try it... in a bathroom

Perfect for a shot of energising colour in the morning! Keep it on one wall, though. If you surround yourself in chartreuse, it will throw a yellowish cast on your face in the mirrror.



Panelled wall painted in Euphorbia architects' satinwood, Paint & Paper Library



> "Team this colour with natural finishes such as wood, leather and stone for a modern country look"

THE PERFECT MATCH

Raw Chalk architects' eggshell, Paint & Paper Library

Get the look



This silhouette design adds interest but still feels serene.
Moorland fabric in Green, Clarke & Clarke

+



The dots look hand-drawn for an artisan feel.
Anna French Mali Dot wallpaper in Green, Wallpaperdirect

+

Lighten a room without defaulting to white.
Soft Lime Breatheasy matt emulsion, Crown

ADD AN ACCENT

PALE OAK

This natural tone keeps bright chartreuse feeling warm and welcoming.
Folding cane chair in Natural, John Lewis & Partners

Florette wallpaper in Acid Drop, Little Greene

| COLOUR EDIT |

Green

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS DELICIOUS SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT FOR A BEAUTIFUL HOME

Upper wall in Aquamarine, lower wall in Ambleside absolute matt emulsion, both Little Greene

'What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'There are so many greens and some have very little in common. When combining different shades, an easy rule is to use either yellow-based or blue-based greens. Otherwise you'll have a very uncomfortable colour scheme. The closer together the greens are, the better.'
ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN CHALK PAINT

'Green is amazingly versatile and works well in most rooms. Deep tones add warmth to a space, so in a north-facing living room bold shades will create a cosy, cocooning environment. Cooler shades of green work well in warmer rooms, such as a south-facing bedroom.'
DOMINIC MYLAND, CEO, MYLANDS

'Grey-greens should be your new go-to neutral. They seamlessly complement a currently grey scheme without too much upheaval.'
VICTORIA YARDLEY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, VICTORY COLOURS

'Green is a useful ally if you are hoping to make small spaces appear a little larger. Our mental association with green as a symbol of wide-open outside spaces means it works to make small rooms appear a little larger, so you can see why this visual trick works.'
MARIANNE SHILLINGFORD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, DULUX

'Grey-greens are a very forgiving base. They are luxurious and refined – but never cold. To provide a fabulous first impression, use in your hallway or porch.'
ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN CHALK PAINT

'For drama combine deep jewel tones with earthy darks, while for a lighter, fresher look, mix up more delicate tones of green, – or for the wow factor, try highlighting with a totally different colour, such as bright pink or acid yellow.'
ANDY GREENALL, HEAD OF DESIGN, LITTLE GREENE

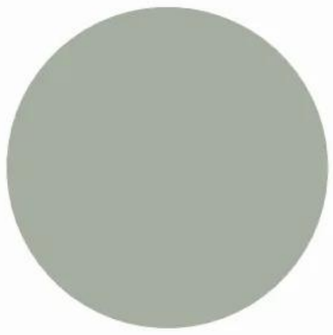
'Deeper greens, which are bold with blue undertones, fit really well with the fashion for lush, leafy botanicals. They look amazing teamed with gold and brass,'
VICTORIA YARDLEY, MANAGING DIRECTOR, VICTORY COLOURS



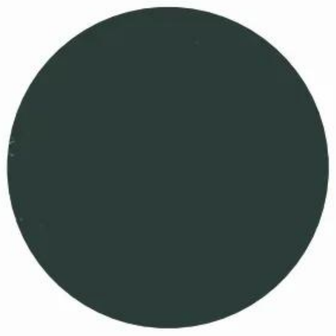
Move over grey! Shades of green from the softer end of the spectrum work well in practical spaces such as a kitchen. Suffolk kitchen hand-painted in Cactus, Neptune

> "A **GRANITE GREEN** is a great base colour for well-lit rooms, but it's also **FANTASTIC** for accents and looks **DRAMATIC** on ceilings"
>
> **VICTORIA YARDLEY,** MANAGING DIRECTOR, VICTORY COLOURS

the edit GORGEOUS GREENS



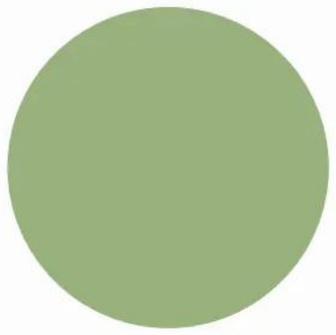
BEST SUBTLE ALTERNATIVE TO GREY
Trailing Plant botanical flat matt, Crown Paint



BEST FOR A DEEP, DRAMATIC LOOK
Mallard Green velvet matt emulsion, Dulux Heritage



BEST FOR OFFICES & KITCHENS
Bancha estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball



BEST FOR A FRESH WELCOME
Rock Samphire matt emulsion, Victory Colours



BEST FOR A BALANCING FINISH
Myrtle Green marble matt emulsion, Mylands



Cafe-style shutters in White, California Shutters

Calming Eucalyptus

SOFT, SERENE AND SOOTHING, THIS TIMELESS GREY-GREEN SHADE IS SUPER VERSATILE

CREATE HARMONY A calm, quiet green with cool grey undertones, eucalyptus works well with the whole spectrum of neutrals, from whites and creams to greys and taupes. Used often in floral arrangements, eucalyptus has a natural ability to bring out the brightness and beauty of bolder colours.

SET YOUR STYLE Restful and easy on the eye, eucalyptus is a great all-rounder that looks at home in any setting. Pull off period style with elegant wall-to-wall green panelling in a formal setting, or mix eucalyptus with raw timbers, burnished metals and industrial elements for a rustic, urban vibe.

BRING OUT THE FINISH Soft greens like eucalyptus, sage and celadon are great partners for natural materials, bringing out the grain and colour of wood finishes.

HIGHLIGHT TEXTURES Keep it subtle by working in textural elements to add interest, from plush weaves and damasks to cut velvets and tone-on-tone patterns.

'Try it... in a bathroom

Calm green walls are a perfect stand-in for grey or beige in a bathroom and make a quiet backdrop for statement pieces, like a freestanding bath in burnished metallic or a patterned floor in encaustic tiles.

'Try it... in a living room

Use it as a neutral and the starting point for your colour scheme with walls painted in pale eucalyptus and upholstery and flooring in a coordinating shade. Add touches of coral or pale pink for warm contrast.



Iggy armchair in Ocean Diamond; Iggy footstool in Buttermere Baylee; scatter cushion in Dusty Rose; Bengal rug, all Sofa.com

> “This classic grey-green works in rooms big or small as it doesn’t advance or recede and can work as a soft, soothing backdrop to brighter key pieces”

THE PERFECT MATCH
Ideal Home recommends Wythe Blue aura matt emulsion, Benjamin Moore

Get the look

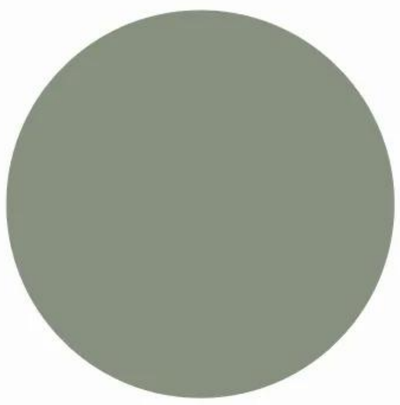


A simple leaf-print weave adds a shot of pattern.
Tallulah fabric in Aloe, Ashley Wilde

+

Try patterned wallpaper in an alcove.
Cuba Habana Vert Fond Blanc wallpaper, Casadeco

+



Choose a subtle shade for all-over colour.
Windmill Lane intelligent matt emulsion, Little Greene

ADD AN ACCENT
CORAL



This vibrant colour will warm up cool green.
Marie footstool in Coral, Cult Furniture

Forest green

BRING THE OUTSIDE IN WITH VIBRANT, LEAFY GREENS FOR A FRESH, UPBEAT FEEL

SET THE MOOD The right green can calm or energise a room. Earthy forest and fern greens have a grounding effect when mixed with woods and deeper tones and, although dark, they can be deceptively restful and very easy to live with.

USE WOOD AS A NEUTRAL In a mainly green scheme, wood can act as a base note, bringing in warm tones on furniture, worktops, trims and flooring. Go for lighter grains, such as oak or beech, for a rustic look or try darker walnut or wenge for a contemporary feel.

MIX IN REAL PLANTS Green is an ideal backdrop for foliage and greenery. Display house plants and succulents on shelves and surfaces in glazed pots and ceramic planters or under glass bell jars and in terrariums.

ADD LUXE DETAILS Introduce an accent metallic to offset the dusky tones. A glint of polished gold, brass or copper will stand out against dark green when used on lighting, door pulls, fixtures and fittings.

Try it... in a kitchen

Glossy brick-shaped tiles in vibrant forest green look fresh teamed with white kitchen cabinets and rustic-style timber work-surfaces. Washed-wood-effect tiles on the floor are a practical alternative to real wood.

Try it... in a study

Balanced, calming and reassuring, green is a great colour choice for a work space. If all-over colour is too much for you, temper the effect with half-painted walls in a neutral shade.

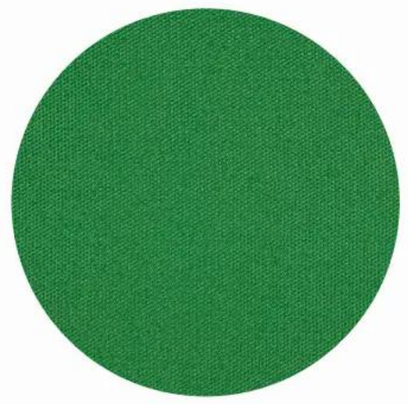






Mora walnut floor tiles, Topps Tiles

Get the look



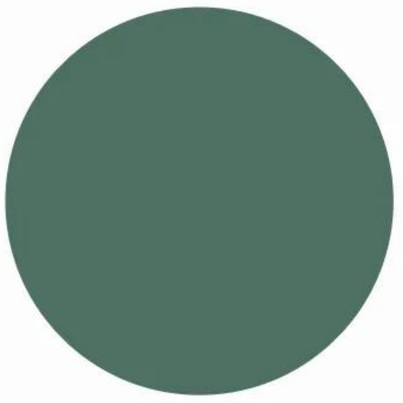
Get smart with all-green upholstery on a sofa.
Papavera Plains fabric in Cactus, Sanderson

+



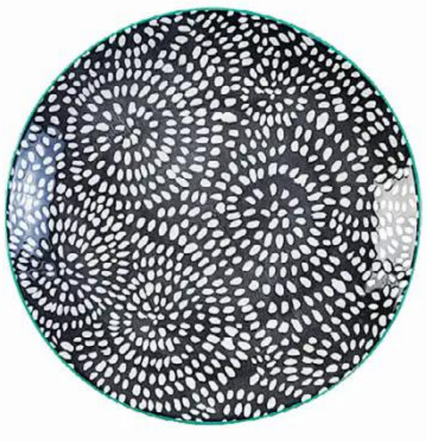
Pop in a lush palm print for added colour.
Easy Palm Leaf wallpaper in Green, Superfresco

+



Try a mid-toned shade as a backdrop colour.
Mercer Green matt emulsion, Craig & Rose

ADD AN ACCENT
BLACK



A dash of black will add definition.
Oriental dinner plate, Sainsbury’s Home

★ ON SALE NOW! ★

Practical tips for a serene space

Discover the essential tips and tricks you need to declutter your home and keep it tidy. From storage solutions to clever ideas for shared spaces, learn how to transform your home into a haven of clutter-free calm.



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FUTURE

| COLOURS WE LOVE |

Succulent green

THIS PALE, FRESH GREEN IS THE PERFECT BASE FOR A MODERN-COUNTRY LOOK, BUT CAN BE STYLED TO BE AS RUSTIC OR AS POLISHED AS YOU LIKE. IT SITS EASILY WITH OTHER COLOURS AND LENDS ANY SPACE A CALMING FEEL

THIS PAGE Concrete **bowl**, Raft. **Succulents**, from a selection, Ikea. **Cushion** cover made in Norrland Pine, Villa Nova. **Pillowcase**, LinenMe. Paint charts, Benjamin Moore. Nestor **coffee table** (in background), Habitat.

Look to nature

Follow the natural world's lead with this soothing colour combination, mixing up shades of fresh green with softer sage, pinks, purples and burgundy tones. All these varied shapes and colours bring life to plain, hard surfaces in muted shades, such as slate and stone.

THIS PAGE Walls painted in Salvia architect's matt, Paint & Paper Library. **Blind** made in Norrland Pine, Villa Nova. For a similar **sofa**, try the Izzy, Sofa.com. Juan **armchair**, Perch & Parrow. Nestor **coffee table**, Habitat. Gladom **side tables**; Stenlille **rug**, all Ikea. Amaliah Chevron **bookshelf**, Graham and Green. **ON SOFA Cushions**, from left: Sanela cushion cover, Ikea; made in Tobi Multi Pine, Villa Nova; pale green linen, Marks & Spencer. **ON CHAIR Cushion** in Laval Lilac, Clarke & Clarke. **ON COFFEE TABLE Bowl**, Raft. Palma **vase**, Barker & Stonehouse. Clive bottle **vase**, Habitat. Country stone **pot** in Pink, John Lewis & Partners. **Candle**, The Handmade Soap Company. **ON SIDE TABLES** Faux **succulent** in pot, Marks & Spencer. Wobbler **plate**, Loaf. **Mug**, Murmur. Lydford **lamp**, Next.

Create a soothing scheme

The combination of super soft blush pink with pale green and grey is an ideal colour scheme for a relaxed, yet elegant living room. This colour scheme works well on both modern contemporary spaces, as well as classic, rustic looks.

RAW WOOD
Unpolished finishes look gorgeous against this green

STYLE DIRECTION

"Combine with brown or grey neutrals, like wooden flooring or wood or grey-toned furniture"

THIS PAGE Blind made in Geneva Delta, Romo. Bosse **bar stools**, Ikea; painted in Velvet Evening, Crown. For a similar **wall light**, try the Caravaggio Read wall lamp, Finnish Design Shop. The Cryselco **pendant**, Skinflint Design, is similar. Vestbirk **rug**, Ikea. **ON UNITS** Dualit **toaster**, John Lewis & Partners. **Jars**, Next. **Waffle towel** and **tea towel**, both LinenMe. **Potted plant**, from a selection, Ikea. **Serving bowl**, **cereal bowl**, **side plates** and **mugs**, all Murmur. **Teapot**, Le Creuset. **Jug**, Habitat. **Terrarium**; **succulents**, from a selection, all Ikea. **ON SHELVES Glasses and mugs**, from a selection, Ikea

Try coloured cabinetry

Sage green kitchen cabinets teamed with oak worktops and flooring look effortlessly relaxed and rustic. To avoid the space looking too matchy-matchy, add in a few pieces of furniture and some textiles in a variety of grey-green hues.

PRETTY CHALK-PAINTED STOOLS
Matt, non-shiny, paints suit this natural look



THIS PAGE Beatrice J162W-03 **wallpaper**, Jane Churchill. Carter **desk**; Somerton **basket**, both Neptune. Bosse **stool** (cut down), Ikea. **ON DESK** Forsa **desk lamp**, Ikea. Pink buttons **vase**, Habitat. Faux **succulent** in pot (left), Neptune. White storage **jar** (used as planter), Next. **Magazine holder**, WHSmith; painted in Box Tree matt emulsion, Crown. **Mug**, Loaf. White vase, Next. **ON SHELF Mugs and vases**, from a selection, John Lewis & Partners. IN BASKET Roberto sage wool **throw**, LinenMe

WHITE TRIM

Stick to white, not creamy tones, on woodwork for a crisp contrast

Carve out a creative corner

If you love the mellow combination of succulent green, soft pink and charcoal, try them all together in a wallpaper like this painterly design. It's the perfect design and colour combo for an uplifting look in a bedroom or home office.

THIS PAGE Walls painted in Box Tree matt emulsion, Period collection, Crown. **Curtain** made in Lava Teal, Prestigious Textiles. Madehurst king-size **bed** in Elegance Velvet – Vintage Lilac/ Mink, Mood Collections. Bellini **chair** in Sea Blue velvet, Loaf. Industrial tray **table**, Graham and Green. Fading World Jade Oyster **rug**, Louis de Poortere. **ON BED** Spa Green stone-washed linen king **duvet cover**; Spa Green stone-washed linen **pillowcases**; Balsam Green stone-washed linen **pillowcases**; king **flat sheet**, all LinenMe. Tourmaline **cushion**, Perch & Parrow. Hampton check amethyst **throw**, John Lewis & Partners. **ON CHAIR Cushion** made in Laval Lilac, Clarke & Clarke. **ON TABLE** Bonnie **lamp**, Perch & Parrow. Grapefruit & May Chang **body butter**; Lavender, Rosemary & Mint **body lotion**, both Handmade Soap Company. For similar planter, try TK Maxx

Set the scene for a dreamy space

Pale green panelling provides the perfect backdrop for blush velvet upholstery, setting the scene for a chic bedroom scheme. Echo the nature-inspired theme by working in a selection of houseplants in neutral coloured planters.

PINK PARTNER
Soft blush and nude tones are the perfect companions for fresh, cactus greens

STYLE DIRECTION

“Use matt-finish linens, cottons and cotton velvets to ensure the scheme looks modern and fresh”



Veranda Trellis wallpaper, Zoffany. Suffolk glazed dresser, Neptune

Apple Green

FRESH AND UPBEAT, THIS CLASSIC GREEN WILL LIFT YOUR ROOM AND YOUR SPIRITS

PICK YOUR APPLE A fresh, invigorating shade, apple green works as an instant room brightener. Its shades can vary just like the fruit, from warm, cooking apple green with its yellow undertones ideal for giving a cosy glow, to a fresh, crisp Granny Smith green.

FIND THE PERFECT PARTNER Fresh apple green partners well with pure white for a bright look that's ideal in kitchens. In rooms where you want a mellower mood, go for warmer greens with off-white. Stick to two main colours for simplicity.

PLAY WITH PATTERN The benefit of using just two colours is that you can mix in as many patterns as you like without it looking overly busy. Start with one mid-to-large-scale pattern, then introduce small-scale prints one by one until you're happy.

SMARTEN IT UP Give this classic green more of a modern-country vibe by working in a dark accent, such as charcoal grey or matt black. Don't overdo it, just a few subtle touches will add a sharper edge.

Try it... in a dining room

Pair crisp apple green and white in a kitchen or dining room for a modern-country scheme. Line a painted dresser with a dark, leafy wallpaper, which will make white china and kitchenware pop.

Try it... in a living room

With a calm, light shade like this, you can get away with using apple green over large areas without it making a room feel smaller. Take the colour up to picture rail height, with clean white paint above.

THE PERFECT MATCH

Ideal Home recommends Devon Green active emulsion, Sanderson

“Perfect for a room that looks out over a garden, blurring the colours inside and out”

Get the look



Start your scheme with a leafy fabric.
Calathea fabric, Sanderson

+



Simple trellis wallpaper sits easily with other patterns.
Tessella wallpaper, Farrow & Ball

+

A calm tone that will work over large areas.
Earthborn Grasshopper claypaint, Designer Paint

ADD AN ACCENT

BLACK



Gives apple green a grown-up edge.
Diamond print throw, Amara

Curtains in Tillandsia; sofa in Notion; cushions in Himmeli; Beton; Orto, all Scion

COLOUR EDIT

Sage green

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS PRESENT THIS SOOTHING EARTHY SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME



Choose a versatile mid-toned shade that's the perfect mix of green and grey. Olive Tree matt emulsion, Heritage range at Dulux

What the experts say...

Colour consultants share their views

'Sage is made by adding blue to green, making it a fresh and cool colour. Most rooms will benefit from it, as it is neither too bold nor too light, and is a great base to add stronger shades to. It pairs really well with pink, a combination found naturally in flowers.'
FRANCESCA WEZEL, FOUNDER, FRANCESCA'S PAINTS

'Neutrals with a hint of colour, like a pale sage or olive green, are both subtle and powerful. Try choosing two harmonious colours, such as our Gray Mirage and Misted Green. Paint the lower part of the wall using the darker tone and the top in the paler colour to create an understated simplicity.'
HELEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'With its calm, earthy feel, sage green works beautifully in any room of the house. Its versatility means you can be brave and fully embrace it across all four walls or just use a splash as an accent colour to complement a more neutral paint.'
ANNA HILL, BRAND DIRECTOR, FENWICK & TILBROOK

'For a living room or home office, sage green is a great choice as our eyes don't have to adjust to green, creating an instantly restful environment.'
TASH BRADLEY, HEAD OF INTERIOR DESIGN, LICK

'Sage green has previously been paired with similar muted tones, such as taupes and light creams, but we have recently seen a bright bold trend coming through. To create a more dramatic space, try pairing a dark sage green with a burnt orange or brick to bring this new trend to life.'
KELLY COLLINS, INTERIOR DESIGN EXPERT AND HEAD OF CREATIVE, SWYFT

'Sage is a pale, soft green colour that works beautifully with natural timber and whiter tones for a fresh look that's effortlessly classic.'
SIMON TEMPRELL, INTERIOR DESIGN MANAGER, NEPTUNE

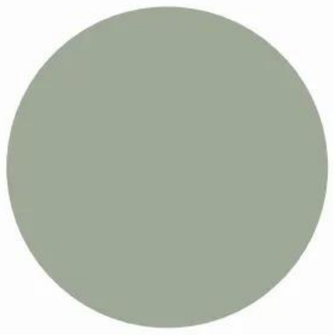


Bring a sense of calm and comfort. Sir Lutyens' Sage absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

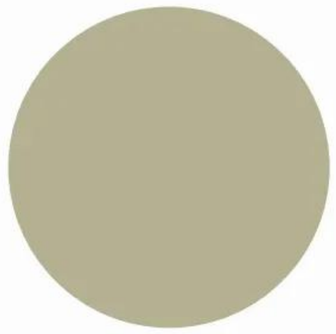
"Soft grey-green **SHADES** are **TIMELESS** and work beautifully with **NATURAL** materials, such as stone, wood, rattan and jute"

RUTH MOTTERSHEAD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

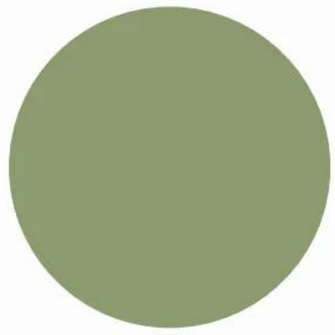
the edit SAGE GREEN



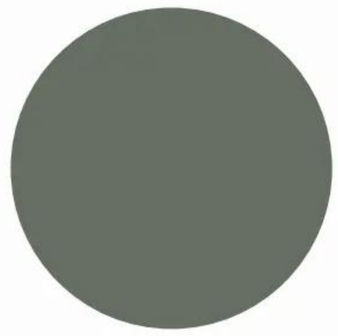
BEST FOR USE AS A NEUTRAL
Trailing Plant flat matt emulsion, Crown



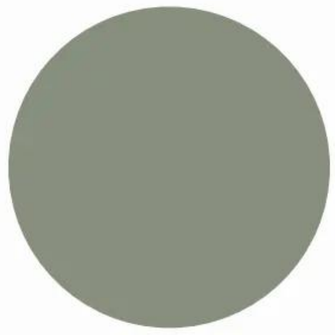
BEST FOR EXTERIOR WOODWORK
Ball Green exterior eggshell, Farrow & Ball



BEST FOR FRESHENING UP
Cuttings pure matt emulsion, Fenwick & Tilbrook



BEST FOR KITCHEN UNITS
Ice House Blue acrylic eggshell, Francesca's Paints



BEST FOR ULTIMATE CALM
Green 02 matt emulsion, Lick



Teak and brass **coffee table**, Dare Studio. **Walls, ceiling** and **bench** in Green Smoke estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball

Sage green & powder pink

PAIR A TRANQUIL GREEN WITH MUDDIED PINK FOR A CALM AND SOOTHING MARRIAGE OF COLOURS

USE GREEN AS YOUR BACKDROP Sage green can often look dirty in the pot, but once you get it on the walls, you realise it has a quiet softness about it that works perfectly in rooms large or small. With its connection to nature, this mid-green has soothing qualities that are crying out to be married with sweeter shades.

BRING IN A DELICATE PINK Dusky powder pink has the same undertones as sage green, and so it won't compete when they're paired together. Not as sickly as baby pink, its slightly weathered appearance can turn a cool room a notch warmer, without overpowering the scheme.

INTRODUCE DELICATE PATTERN Small-scale patterned fabrics or wallpapers would work well with this colour combination, but keep the shapes fluid rather than angular or geometric. Muted florals or simple spots will bring a liveliness to your space without looking too busy.

PAIR WITH AN OFF-WHITE While brilliant white will certainly pop against the sage green, it could look a little harsh, so if you want to keep woodwork or flooring neutral, a warm off-white will be more sympathetic, especially in a more country-style interior.

'Try it... in a snug

Throw caution to the wind and use this pale green shade over walls, ceilings and woodwork, to create an immersive and cosy space. Lift the scheme by adding in soft pink accessories and textiles.

'Try it... in a dining room

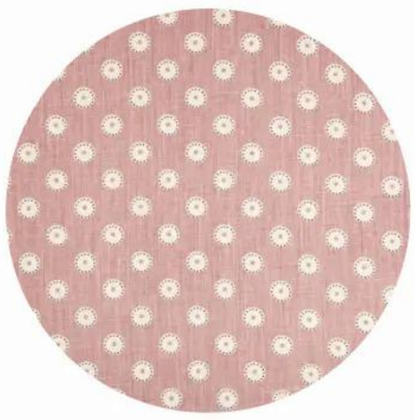
In a dining room that's flooded with natural light, opt to paint from floor to ceiling, covering skirting boards and woodwork as you go. Bring in a pretty shade of pink through upholstered dining chairs, but balance the look with striking black furniture to stop the room from becoming too ice-cream-shades sweet.



> “Work in metallics to make this look more luxe, but stick to warm brass or copper and use sparingly yet with confidence”

Walls in Ivy luxurious flat matt emulsion, Crafted by Crown

Get the look



Upholster dining chairs in this versatile print.
Pretty Maids fabric in Dusky Pink, Vanessa Arbuthnott

+



Pair this with wood panelling for a modern country look.
Woodland Sage Green wallpaper, Dunelm

+

A pale hue, perfect for walls and skirting boards.
Pashmina silk emulsion, Breatheasy range, Crown

ADD AN ACCENT
COPPER

This table lamp brings a glam touch.
Eriksen copper table lamp, Iconic Lights

| COLOUR EDIT |

Verdigris green

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS PRESENT THIS FRESH, VIBRANT SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

Walls in Tea with Florence absolute matt emulsion; **cabinets** in Harley Green intelligent eggshell, both Little Greene

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'Verdigris has a copper-green base, so although this colour appears to be happy and lively at first glance, it still retains a reassuring feel and underlying elegance. In north-facing rooms it will feel less dynamic, but more connected to nature.'
JOA STUDHOLME, COLOUR CURATOR, FARROW & BALL

'I love pairing verdigris with deep, warm reds and terracotta. The key is to make sure the colours balance. Generally, green is a cool, receding colour. However, the more yellow it is, the warmer it looks and therefore the more attention it attracts.'
ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN PAINT

'Green is fantastic with neutrals as it sits in the centre of the colour wheel and can be paired with both cold and warm undertones. A chalky, blue-toned grey can be combined with verdigris to create a cool, calm scheme, whereas pairing it with a warmer, yellow-toned beige creates an earthy feel.'
HELEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'Vibrant, teal-toned verdigris brims with energy and is perfect for kitchens and bathrooms. It can be subtle and restful, too, so ideal for bedrooms and studies.'
COLIN ROBY-WELFORD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, FIRED EARTH

'Team verdigris green with vibrant pink soft furnishings to build a striking interior. Crisp whites also work perfectly alongside verdigris to give a fresh and defined look while bringing out the natural beauty of this elegant colour.'
REBECCA CRAIG, HEAD OF DESIGN, SANDERSON

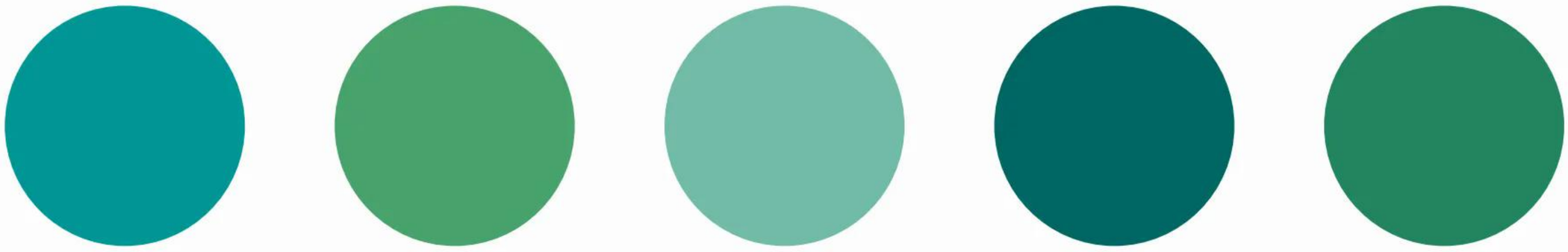
'Verdigris is a versatile shade that can work all around the house. It comes to life in natural light, so is perfect for a sunny living room. It also lends character to somewhere with little light, such as a hallway. In this case, it is important to bring in warmth with terracotta and mid-tone wood.'
JUDY SMITH, COLOUR CONSULTANT, CROWN



Wallpaper, Conway in Poison, Zoffany. **Sofa,** Porto three-seater sofa in Kingfisher Velvet, Swoon

> "Derived from the oxidation of copper, this rich, **STRIKING** shade is back on trend due to the **VIBRANCY** it brings to a scheme"
>
> **PETER GOMEZ,** HEAD OF DESIGN, ZOFFANY

the edit VERDIGRIS GREEN



BEST FOR ADDING A BLUE HUE
Palm Springs matt emulsion, Crown

BEST FOR EAST-FACING ROOMS
Green With Envy, Benjamin Moore

BEST FOR A COLOUR HIT
Eucalyptus active emulsion, Sanderson

BEST FOR WARM METALLICS
Betty matt emulsion, Graham & Brown

BEST FOR ADDING INSTANT WARMTH
Florence chalk paint, Annie Sloan



Charlie bar stools; Skandi bar table; Skandi grey light shade, all Argos

Mint & Grey

CALM THE FRESHNESS OF MINT WITH THE STEELINESS OF GREY FOR A WINNING PAIRING

TRY MINT AS A BASE COLOUR Fresh, bright and cheerful, mint is a versatile shade that can brighten up a gloomy room or cool down a sunny one just as easily. Great for smaller spaces, too, it will add colour without making a room feel smaller or darker.

TAME COOL TONES WITH GREY Mint mixes naturally with most colours. Team it with soft silver-grey to soothe mint's natural energy if you're using it in a room where you want to relax, or try pairing it with charcoal or black to give it a more grown-up feel.

USE IT WITH CONFIDENCE Showcase this colour combination by using large blocks of colour rather than just small touches here and there. Don't complicate it with an overload of pattern, stick with just one or two.

ADD WARM ELEMENTS Mint and grey is a cool combination, so add warmth with wooden flooring and furniture. Go pale with beech, light oak, ash or elm, in low-sheen finishes and structured, streamlined shapes.

Try it... in a kitchen

Go for a sharper look in a kitchen using spearmint alongside slate grey and charcoal. Dark matt cabinets and white worktops are a fail-safe combo, but a vibrant spearmint green splashback adds punch.

Try it... in a bedroom

Don't shy away from using mint green in a bedroom – if the room gets plenty of natural light, it won't feel chilly. Avoid creamy neutrals and instead team mint with pure white and steely greys to keep the look crisp and clean.

THE PERFECT MATCH
Ideal Home recommends Botanical Extract Breatheasy coloured emulsion, Crown

Elona double bed frame in Grey, is this style; Penn multi-drawer bedside table, both Made. Bug knitted pouffe, Loaf

> “Warm up mint and grey in winter by working in toastier shades of taupe or teal with hot pops of ochre or coral”

Get the look



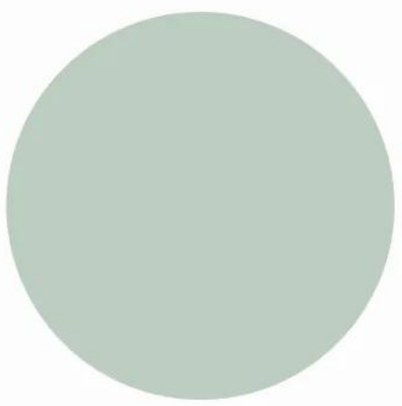
Try an easy-to-use weave in a soft shade of grey.
Dune fabric in Mist, Romo

+



Mint and grey meet in a retro leafy print.
Copenhagen Leaf Floral wallpaper, Cult Furniture

+



Calm it down with a soft, chalky shade.
Eau de Nil matt emulsion, Laura Ashley

ADD AN ACCENT
MATT WHITE



Stick to low-sheen whites.
Bodo pendant, Dowsing & Reynolds

| COLOUR EDIT |

Powder blue

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS PRESENT THIS SOOTHING EARTHY SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

Walls painted in Flax emulsion; Clemmie king size headboard in Lara Burnt Sienna with Harry Rust piping; Larsson bedside table in Navy; cushions, all Neptune

What the experts say...

Colour consultants share their views

'If you're looking for a colour to use with powder blue, then a fresh white will never go out of style. I'd add in muted blush tones for a soft feminine touch or peach for some vibrancy.'
ABBY HESKETH, PAINT SPECIALIST, GRAHAM & BROWN

'Powder blue works best in an east-facing room where the morning light - which is cooler - would flatter the colour. This shade would also work brilliantly in a south-facing room, where the nuanced undertones will become more pronounced as the sun streams in.'
PATRICK O'DONNELL, INTERNATIONAL BRAND AMBASSADOR, FARROW & BALL

'Try pairing powder blue shades with a deep, dark smoky blue for a dramatic scheme. This would look particularly good in a kitchen, where the depth of the darker shade could be used to ground the lower cabinets with the lighter blue used on the wall units.'
CLARE TILBROOK, BRAND DIRECTOR, FENWICK & TILBROOK

'Chalky whites, sandy tones and soft terracottas blend and harmonise with powder blue tones – they give it additional warmth while maintaining its restful character.'
JUDY SMITH, COLOUR CONSULTANT, CROWN

'Metallic fixtures bring out the silvery undertones in powder blue to create a glamorous and subtle finish, especially in bedrooms. For a higher contrast, gold and brass furniture and fixtures transform this barely-there shade into a real statement colour.'
SUE KIM, SENIOR COLOUR DESIGNER, VALSPAR

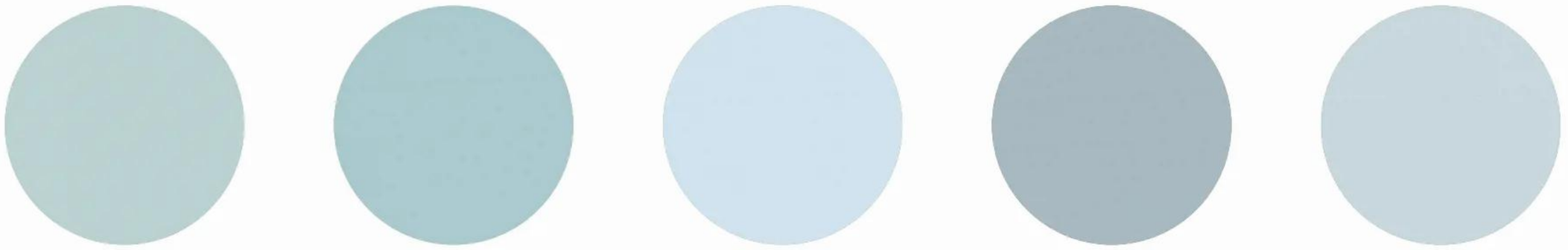
'It can be a bold decision to choose to paint a ceiling in any other colour than white. However, we naturally respond to a blue ceiling because the sky is blue. Reducing the saturation to a powdery blue hue will add sophistication to the space.'
JASON HINES, DIRECTOR OF DECORATIVE, HOMEBASE



Walls painted in Walpole marble matt emulsion; woodwork and ceiling painted in Long Acre wood & metal eggshell, Mylands

> "'Bring the scheme into **FOCUS** and give it an **EDGY**, unexpected element by adding touches of charcoal for **DEFINITION**"
>
> **JUDY SMITH,** COLOUR CONSULTANT, CROWN

the edit SOFT BLUES



BEST FOR NORTH-FACING ROOMS
Temple Linen matt, Fenwick & Tilbrook

BEST FOR A MODERN SCHEME
Hazy estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball

BEST FOR CREATING A SENSE OF CALM
Powder Blue matt emulsion, Crown Paints

BEST FOR A GREY ALTERNATIVE
Novel matt emulsion, Graham & Brown

BEST FOR MAXIMISING LIGHT
Borrowed Blue paint mixing matt, Dulux



Wall in Luna Landscape 3 matt emulsion, Dulux. Witham book rack (as plate rack), Rowen & Wren. Striped runner, Cox & Cox, is similar

Chambray Blue

MAKE THIS RELAXED, COMFORTABLE, EASY-GOING BLUE YOUR NEW GO-TO SHADE

TAKE THE EASY OPTION Warmer than baby blue and more forgiving than denim or navy, chambray is a versatile shade that goes with just about anything. Team it with crisp white for a fail-safe combination or try soft neutrals like putty or taupe to cosy it up.

LOOK AT LIGHT LEVELS FIRST Blues can vary depending on the light, so before you settle on a shade, work out which way the light falls in your room. Maximise the feeling of space in a bright room by choosing a paler tone or, in rooms with little natural light, embrace the darkness with moodier blues.

ADD DEPTH WITH PATTERN Break up blocks of solid colour by bringing in hefty doses of pattern. Anything goes, as long as you keep to the same family of blues. Mix stripes and checks, toiles and denim twills, with accents of inky ikats and dusky ombres.

WARM UP COOL BLUES Work in plenty of rustic, natural textures to offset flat blue tones and add richness and warmth.

Try it... in a kitchen

Chambray and white is a timeless combination that looks at ease in a country kitchen. Warm timber tones sing out against this flat blue, so work plenty of wooden elements into your scheme.

Try it... in a living room

Team chalky chambray walls with crisp white paintwork for a relaxed, coastal-inspired scheme. Worried about blue looking too cool? Then layer in lots of warm weaves, mixed patterns and darker tones.

THE PERFECT MATCH
Ideal Home recommends Parma Gray estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball

Iggy armchair in Ocean Diamond; Iggy footstool in Buttermere Baylee; scatter cushion in Dusty Rose; Bengal rug, all Sofa.com

Get the look



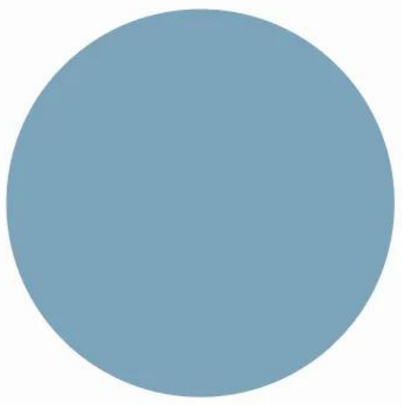
Add coastal style with a nautical stripe.
South Bay Stripe fabric in Mist, Ian Mankin

+



Mix in delicate florals in faded blues.
Waxham Pale Seaspray wallpaper, Laura Ashley

+



Go for soothing sea-blue shades.
Cornwall Blue Blend 500 walls and ceilings emulsion, Valspar

ADD AN ACCENT
TAN

Add vintage charm with a tan leather ottoman.
Leather footstool, Modish Living

> “Take the chill off this pale blue tone by bringing in a warmer accent colour – try touches of burnt orange, warm caramel, tan or luxe copper”

Denim blues

LIKE A GREAT PAIR OF JEANS, YOU CAN TEAM THESE COOL SHADES WITH ANYTHING

FIND THE RIGHT BLUE Denim looks relaxed in any setting. Choose your signature shade depending on the look you want to create, whether it's a relaxed, well-worn vibe in faded chambray and washed linen or a smarter, grown-up style in inky indigo or dip-dyed ombre.

DOWNPLAY PATTERNS Give your scheme depth by layering blues to build up the colour gradually. Keep pattern sparse with easy-on-the-eye ticking stripes and a few inky ikats mixed with slubby weaves and textured twills.

WARM IT UP WITH NEUTRALS Pair denim with neutral tones on upholstery, furniture and flooring to take the chill off its blue-grey tones. Try softer shades of chalk, off-white or ivory rather than a harsh brilliant white.

DON'T FORGET THE DETAILS Bring in plenty of natural textures, rustic basketware and weathered woods to offset matt denim tones. Add flair with smart finishing touches, from coloured, contrasting piping to chunky wooden buttons.

Try it... in a bedroom

Make a statement with bold painted panelling in a dark, chalky denim shade. Add an oversized headboard upholstered in a cool off-white to pop against the blue backdrop, and layer up with linens in washed indigo and ticking stripes.

Try it... in a kitchen

Lift an all-neutral kitchen with a shot of contrast colour. Swap tiles for a high-gloss splashback in a dark denim blue, creating the perfect backdrop to your collection of kitchenware.



Petrol Blue splashback, AluSplash

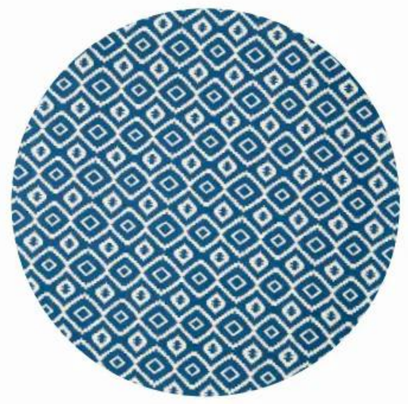


“Keep the look casual with plenty of tactile soft furnishings, simple wooden furniture and textured wallpaper”

THE PERFECT MATCH
Ideal Home recommends Flanders Blue 1829 chalky emulsion, Craig & Rose

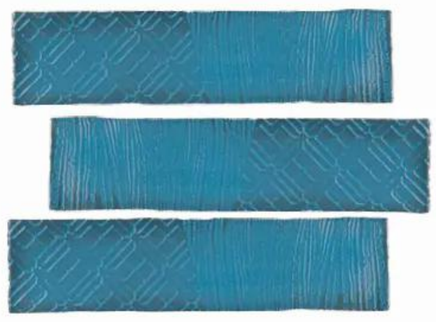
Harlow double bed in Denim Chessney Stripe with light oak legs, Sofa.com

Get the look



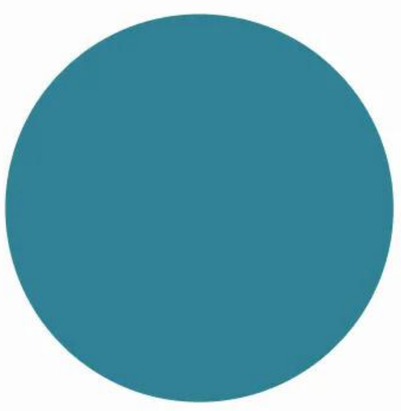
An accent armchair suits a subtle denim weave.
Nazca fabric in Indian Blue, John Lewis & Partners

+



Add a hint of texture with patterned tiles.
Lampas Marine pattern tiles, Topps Tiles

+



Take colour down a tone for a tranquil vibe.
Turkish Blue matt emulsion, Fired Earth

ADD AN ACCENT
SAND



Cool it down with a soft, sandy shade.
Eskimo cushion cover in beige, Lapuan Kankurit

Teal and Midnight Navy Easyclean matt emulsion, Crown

| COLOUR EDIT |

Teal

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS RICH, VERSATILE SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'Teal is the go-to colour pop because it's bright and punchy, but also feels serene. Try pairing teal curtains and accessories with pastel and plaster pinks to give a shot of freshness to your scheme.'
AARON MARKWELL, COLOUR CURATOR, COAT

'Lying between blue and green, teal is a versatile colour that can bring a peaceful feel or – when combined with other colours – vibrancy. Teal can be used to create retro schemes, while saturated shades work well for colour drenching.'
JUSTYNA KORCZYNSKA, COLOUR CONSULTANT, CROWN

'Due to its hybrid of blue and green, teal rarely feels chilly. It works as an accent too, paired with tonal shades, such as our rich Emerald Green, acidic Arsenic, or deep Ultra Marine Blue. Try framing teal with chocolate-brown woodwork.'
PATRICK O'DONNELL, INTERNATIONAL BRAND AMBASSADOR, FARROW & BALL

'Jewel-inspired tones, such as our Phantom, will add opulence, whereas a darker teal, with a blue/grey base, will give a luxurious look especially in a matt finish. We love teal as an enveloping colour drench, including the ceiling, complemented by warm neutrals.'
JAMES GREENWOOD, BRAND AND INTERIOR EXPERT, GRAHAM & BROWN

'Teal tones are easy and versatile, with a warm ambience and organic quality that creates casual elegance. A mid-tone blend of blues, greens and greys, teal becomes wonderfully restful in natural daylight and deeply moody in darker corners, a liveable shade for all areas of the home.'
HELEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, BENJAMIN MOORE UK

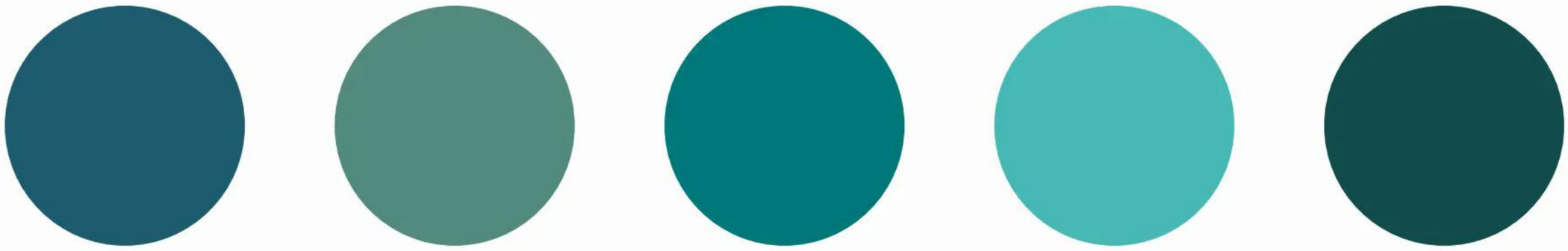
'With their biophilic nature, blue and green evoke stress-relieving and mood-boosting atmospheres, ideal for bedrooms and living rooms.'
TOBIE LEWIS, HEAD OF MARKETING, VALSPAR



Restful teal works beautifully for colour drenching a space. Wall in Teal matt emulsion, Crown

> "'With connotations of the **SEA** and the **TROPICS**, tranquil teal is associated with **VITALITY**, **NATURE** and **HEALING** in your home"
>
> **JUSTYNA KORCZYNSKA**, COLOUR CONSULTANT, CROWN

the edit TEAL



BEST FOR PAIRING WITH OTHER BLUES
The Posh Seats flat matt, Coat

BEST FOR TRAD SCHEMES
Teal 06 matt, Lick

BEST FOR CREATING DRAMA
Phantom matt, Graham & Brown

BEST FOR COASTAL STYLE
Harbor Side Blue, Benjamin Moore

BEST FOR AN IMMERSIVE LOOK
Teal architects' matt, Paint & Paper Library

| COLOUR CLUB |

Teal & emerald

THE DESIGN KNOW-HOW BEHIND THIS TOP COLOUR COMBO, TO HELP YOU WORK IT LIKE A PRO

TEAL BASE

As the largest area and therefore the highest percentage of colour coverage, the teal will take the lead as your dominant colour. Sitting between blue and green on the spectrum, teal has the strength and quietness of both shades, making it feel calming and restorative – ideal for spaces where you want to unwind and relax.

PAINT COLOUR
Clockwise from top:
Inchyra Blue estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball; New Brick durable matt, Ideal Home at Albany; Dark Brunswick Green absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

CORAL ACCENTS

A warm shade like coral will counteract the coolness of teal and bring out its warmer side. What's clever in this room is the way coral hasn't been used in a matchy matchy way. Instead it's picked out using different prints so that each adds a further layer to the design. Use touches of coral in three different areas to create a triangle that brings a sense of balance to the space.



FEATURE NICKY PHILLIPS AND HEATHER YOUNG
PHOTOGRAPHS FUTURECONTENT.COM



BLACK FINISHING TOUCHES

Keep this look elegant and grown-up with touches of black. Dark wood sofa legs and a black curtain rail make sure the room looks smart and tailored. These near-black details ground the scheme and offer a pleasing end-note to the rich colours on display.

TONAL GREEN

When balancing your scheme, the next percentage of colour in the room should be one that sits near to your main shade (the teal on walls) on the colour wheel. This is the trick to combining colours in a way that looks interior-designed. Here, the emerald green sofa adds depth and interest without jarring or being too shouty. Repeat the same green on a footstool covered in a mid-scale print to draw the eye to the centre of the room, then pull the scheme together with green on a smaller scale print on curtains. This decorating technique feels sophisticated and design-savvy.

> “Stick to a maximum of three main colours, then have fun combining tints, tones and pattern in those shades, to stop the room looking too colour busy”

| WHY INTERIOR DESIGNERS LOVE... |

Shades of teal

THIS CHAMELEON COLOUR CAN SHIFT FROM WARM AND COCOONING TO FRESH AND INVIGORATING, DEPENDING ON THE COLOURS YOU PAIR IT WITH. WE ASKED COLOUR EXPERTS FOR THEIR DOS AND DON'TS...

HOT SPOT
Use burnt orange accents to warm up teal in a room with cooler light

'Well balanced

'Teal is the middle point between blue and green so our eyes need little or no adjusting to it, giving a sense of calm,' says Helen Shaw, Marketing Director at Benjamin Moore UK.

Cosy retreat

'Use teal in spaces you retreat to – whether that's a living room or bedroom. Teal can feel restorative and bring a feeling of cosiness, even in the brightest of rooms,' says Helen Shaw.



"I think rich jewel tones add a satisfying contrast to teal, for a luxurious and opulent feel"

JODY HUDSON, STYLIST, GRAHAM & BROWN

OPPOSITE PAGE Aissa two-seater **sofa** in Neptune smart velvet, Sofa.com. Merial **coffee table**, Perch & Parrow, is similar. Small velvet and linen backed **cushion** in Coral, Graham & Green. **ABOVE** Millbrook Hampshire 8000 **divan set** in Plush New Teal; Nicholson **table lamp**; Connection scatter **cushions** in Soho Steel, Soho Mushroom and Soho Buttercup; Corelli **cushion** in Royal Blue, all Furniture Village. Try Cocoon **blanket** in Ochre, Wallace Cotton



Tie it together

'Layering different tones of blue and green together avoids colour clashes,' says Jody Hudson. Teal is a fail-safe accent to add, 'because it sits in the centre of the colour wheel,' explains Helen Shaw.

ABOVE Raphael **wallpaper** in Dark Green, Sandberg. Verona **lamp** base; Straight Empire **shade** in Ocean handmade parchment, both Pooky. Derry recycled glass **carafe**; **glass**, both Rowen & Wren. **Cushion** in Madox in Teal, Jim Thompson at Jane Clayton & Company. **OPPOSITE PAGE** Snowdrop two-seater **sofa** in Atlantic Roosevelt velvet, Sofa.com. Trees Two Blue large velvet **cushion**, Angel & Boho. Etna Green glass **pendant**; brass **pendant kit**, both Pooky

Go immersive

'For a sophisticated feel, concentrate on mid-to-dark tones, which can envelop a room. The deeper the colour, the greater the effect,' says Peter Gomez, head of Zoffany Studio at Style Library.

> "As teal is quite a deep shade, natural light will impact how dark the colour looks in a room – but be brave, it's such an adaptable colour"
>
> **MELANIE ADAMS**, FOUNDER, WALLPAPER DIRECT

HERO CUSHION
Break up the block colour with a print

The best TEAL SHADES

VIBRANT POP
Palm Springs matt emulsion, Crown

BOLD AND INTENSE
Beau Green matte, Benjamin Moore

RICH AND REGAL
Tiru matt emulsion, Graham & Brown

WARM AND ENVELOPING
Prussian elite emulsion, Designer Paint



Idylle Ocelle Vert wallpaper, Casadeco

Soak up the sun

'Sunlit rooms work well with teal – it balances intense sunlight while maintaining its invigorating and fresh feeling,' says Helen Shaw.

What the experts say...

■ **'Teal is really versatile, which is why it has such longevity as an interiors trend,'** says Melanie Adams, founder of Wallpaperdirect. 'I like to pair it with clean pastel colours and geometric shapes for a fresh, Scandi-inspired look.'

■ **'Using teal on all the walls can make a small room feel heavy and oppressive,'** says Graham & Brown stylist, Jody Hudson. 'To open it up, add metallic elements – a shimmer-effect wallpaper or copper accessories – to give movement to what would otherwise be solid colour.'

■ **'The look and feel of teal will alter depending whether it's used in a north- or south-facing room** – ranging from a cool ocean blue, to a restful and tranquil green hue,' says Helen Shaw.

■ **'It can look both warm and cool, depending on what colours it is paired with, as well as the light,'** adds Melanie Adams. 'It looks cooler when paired with grey, and warmer when paired with pinks, yellows, warmer neutrals and natural woods.'

■ **'I'd stick to using it in south-facing rooms,'** says Jody Hudson. 'Vibrant teal looks great in sunny, restful bedrooms, as well as in calm living rooms and tranquil kitchens.'

■ **'Neutrals with blue or green undertones work well with this saturated colour,** keeping the look tonal and cohesive to maintain teal's tranquil, natural feel,' says Helen Shaw.

■ **'It is so adaptable to any style,'** she adds. 'Pair with earthy, warm colours, such as mustard or paprika, for a mid-century look. Or, stick to a tonal blend but include botanical colours and prints and raw wood, to make it fresh and contemporary.'

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FUTURE

| COLOUR EDIT |

Navy

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS SMART SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

Embrace the trend for darker hues with sophisticated navy. Wall in Mountain lime paint, Refined Raw range at Bauwerk Colour

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'Navy is a more versatile colour than you may think; the inky depths seem to change depending on the lighting in the room. It's an excellent choice if you want to go dark but not quite black and can be used with light neutrals to create a sophisticated look.'
CATHRYN SANDERS, HEAD OF CREATIVE, EARTHBORN

'Our northern light in the UK enhances navy's pigments and because our eyes have difficulty tuning in to its depth, the colour gives a sense of endless space. It's an adaptable colour; it can be timeless or contemporary, glamorous or relaxing.'
DAVID MOTTERSHEAD, MANAGING DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

'Navy creates an inviting, cocooning feel. Like all blues, it is calm and serene, and aids concentration, making it perfect to decorate with. Try painting walls and ceilings the same inky shade to blur boundaries between different areas – useful in smaller spaces or low-ceilinged rooms.'
NICKY PHILLIPS, INTERIOR STYLIST & DESIGNER

'Navy is a surprisingly versatile neutral that works well paired with other colours, such as grey-greens, pale pink and white. If you're more daring, go for browns and oranges, remembering that a small amount of orange goes a long way.'
ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN PAINT

'Embrace the gloom of a north-facing room and make a virtue of its potential for drama with navy. Meanwhile, using this shade on a kitchen island will ground the space and create a focal point.'
CHARLOTTE COSBY, HEAD OF CREATIVE, FARROW & BALL

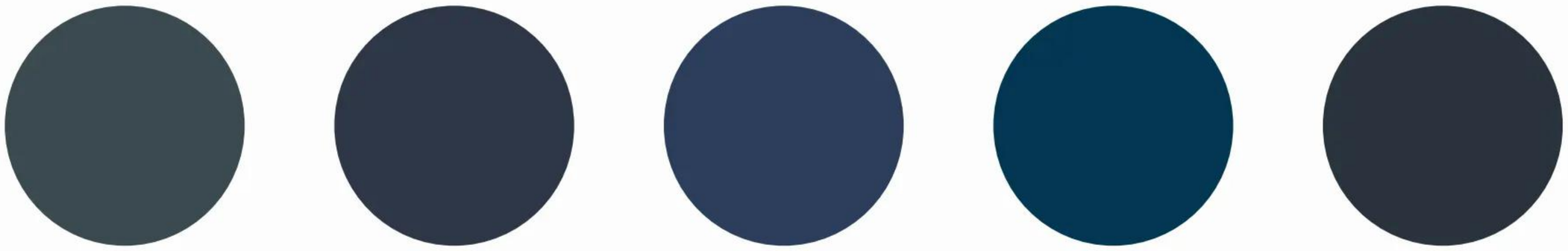
'When building up a colour story with navy as its base, consider complementary colours. Navy and faded denim blues can be paired with soft chalky white, fern green, slate blue and grey. There's a natural coolness to it, yet it will never feel cold.'
TRICIA GUILD, FOUNDER, DESIGNERS GUILD



Bold navy works in any room. Try Toy Soldier claypaint, Earthborn. Bedlinen, Secret Linen Store

> "Historically, **BLUE** was an expensive colour to produce and it reflected the **LUXURY** and **WEALTH** of the homes it appeared in"
>
> **DAVID MOTTERSHEAD**, MANAGING DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

the edit NAVY



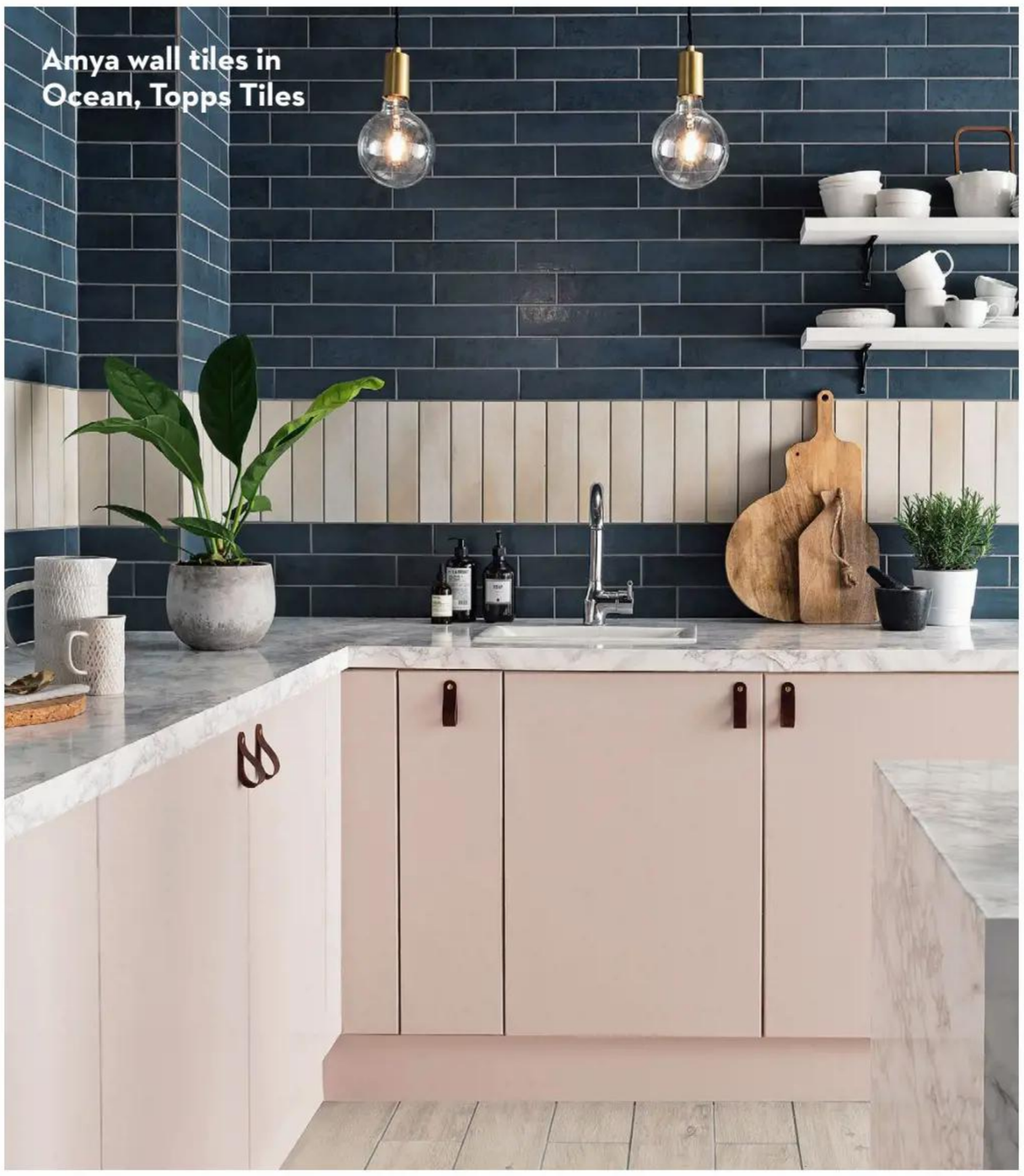
BEST FOR KITCHENS AND BATHROOMS
Hague Blue emulsion, Farrow & Ball

BEST FOR A FEATURE WALL
Blueprint marble matt, Mylands

BEST FOR BEDROOMS
Napoleonic Blue chalk paint, Annie Sloan

BEST WITH OTHER COLOURS
Duffel, Ideal Home collection at Albany

BEST FOR DRAMA
Plimsoll pure flat emulsion, Paint & Paper Library



Amya wall tiles in Ocean, Topps Tiles

Navy & rose quartz

GIVE DEEP BLUES A SOFTER EDGE BY TEAMING THEM WITH A GENTLE PINK

MATCH UP THE UNDERTONES To create cohesion between these two distinctly different shades, you need to find some common ground with their tones. For shades on the warm side, you should look for a blue with nearly hints of deep green and pinks with warm, brownish tones. On the cool side of the spectrum, veer navy towards purple tones, and the pink back towards blue.

CHOOSE THE DOMINANT SHADE Both navy blue and rose quartz are striking colours in their own right, but to achieve a truly stylish space you need to make sure they're not fighting for prominence. When in doubt, revert back to the 60-30-10 rule. This means that 60% of the room should be painted in the dominant shade (either navy or rose), 30% in the secondary colour, and 10% in an accent colour.

WORK IN GENTLE ACCENTS Whites, creams and soft greys are an ideal choice to highlight blues and pinks. For natural warmth, work in pieces made from blond and bleached woods. These often contain gentle pink tones, which helps them sit easily with the blush shades. And, of course, pale woods and deep blues are a match made in decorating heaven.

Try it... in a kitchen

Dramatic ink blue can be overpowering on its own, so use equal measures of soft rose to offset its intensity. Slim brick-shaped tiles add a linear look, softened with pale pink cabinets and sleek marble worktops.

Try it... in a living room

In a social space, choose a pink with grown-up tones of browns and greys to steer clear of anything sickly sweet. Luxe touches like navy velvet furniture and deep blue glazed vases will ensure the look stays grown up.

Walls in Sulking Room Pink estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball. Ella accent **chair**, Next. Cirrus **rug**, Cox & Cox. Tapestry **cushion**, Tori Murphy

> “Reflecting nature at night time, navy acts as the perfect background for a moody, relaxing interior and gives a sense of grandeur to any room”

Get the look

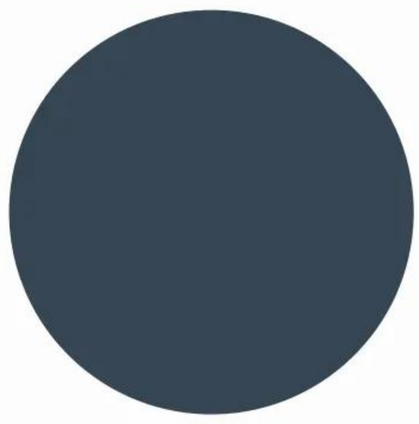
Add a gentle pop of pink for a soft highlight.
Highlander fabric in Blush, Clarke & Clarke

+



The perfect balance of inky blue and pretty pink.
Zsa Zsa Blue wallpaper, Divine Savages

+



Use an ideal navy blue.
Midnight Navy, easyclean matt emulsion, Crown

ADD AN ACCENT
TURQUOISE



Shots of turquoise will add a joyful touch to this scheme.
Santana mezze bowl, Rex London

COLOURS WE LOVE

Midnight blue

WHATEVER THE SHADE, DEEP BLUES MAKE ANY ROOM FEEL CALM AND RELAXED. THIS HUE IS MORE DRAMATIC THAN DUSKY DENIMS, BUT LESS FIERCE THAN POWER-GLAM SAPPHIRE OR COBALT – USE IT TO GIVE YOUR HOME A TIMELESSLY CHIC BACKDROP

THIS PAGE Archipelago Leading Lights - **wallpaper**, Paint & Paper Library. Grand Orinoco **sideboard**, Loaf. Greta **jug**; Noir **mug**; Greta cake **stand**; Otto **bowl**, all Habitat. Peach concrete **candle holder**, A New Tribe. Willem **vase**, Made.com. Libra vase, House Of Fraser. Lyric **lamp**, Out There Interiors. **Candle snuffer**, Heal's. **Candle**, The Grey Works

Make the most of the drama

This deep shade provides the ideal backdrop for displaying much-loved accessories and keepsakes. Pastel hues of peach and pale blue (as well as any shade of green) all pop against the saturated blue, making them stand out.

Find the right combination

As with any dark colour, it's important to balance it with large areas of neutral – here, we've used white and pale greys, as well as lighter blues, for a gentle, natural combination. There are also hints of blush and lilac in the scheme for added warmth.

STYLE DIRECTION

"This dreamy shade works well in both contemporary and traditional schemes"

BRILLIANT WHITE
Creamy tones will look dated, so keep whites pure

THIS PAGE Walls painted in Hague Blue estate **emulsion**, Farrow & Ball, and Grey Steel 2 mixing **flat matt**, Dulux. Brandon **sofa** in Tor Marl, Sofa Workshop. Von **armchair**, Originals. **Nest of tables**, Ercol. Moroccan **pouffe** in Natural, Bohemia. **Blind** in Kora Indigo, Villa Nova. **Border** in Skylar Lapis; Harbour **cord** in Navy trim, both Samuel & Sons. Moon **print**; metal **star**, both Rockett St George. Bjorksta **frame**, Ikea. Sheepskin, Loaf. Paul Klee Mural **cushion**; Clarification **cushion**, We Love Cushions. Bungalow blue velvet **cushion**, Ross & Brown. Mairi Helena **cushions**, Curious Egg. Collet **floor lamp**, Made.com. **ON COFFEE TABLE** Willem blue **vase**, Made.com. Modernist pink **vase**, WA Green. Pembridge **rug**, Sofa.com. Pink glass **bottle**, Out There Interiors. Phil Cuttance **pen pot**, Heal's.

Saline dressing **table**, Ercol at Heal's. Drum **stool**, covered in Romo Taza Briar Rose, The Dormy House. Rattan **screen**, French Connection. Lavado **linen bag**; Nona **plate**, both Habitat. Blush **beauty bag**, Haus Of Hyde. Blue hexagonal **vase**, Hoos. **Perfumes**, stylist's own.

PALEST WOOD

For a modern take, instead of rustic white-painted wood or natural oak

'Feel cocooned in a bedroom

This light-absorbing shade is ideal for a bedroom, providing a mellow pre-sleep mood and easy-on-the-eye awakenings. If you use it on all four walls, make sure you keep the floor and ceiling white, and steer clear of very dark furniture.

Walls painted in Dock Blue absolute matt **emulsion**, Little Greene. Ceiling painted in At the Barre, Valspar. Bell Twist Portland **carpet**, Brintons. **Curtains** in Blizzard Indigo, GP&J Baker. Ties in Sabine Border Indigo, Samuel & Sons. Flapper **bed frame**; Chittlewag **bench**, both Loaf. Green oak **pendant light**, Nicholas Haslam. Croft **stool**, John Lewis & Partners. Reve De Lin **duvet cover**; **pillow cases**, Blanc Cerise. Paloma **throw**; **cushion**; crinkle **throw**; Stamfrey **rug**, all Habitat. Chunky knit **throw**, French Connection. Cactus silk **cushion**, Yonder. Linen **pyjamas**, Made.com. Phill Cuttance **pot**, Heal's. Marble hands **bowl**, Curious Egg.

STYLE DIRECTION

"With so much colour going on, don't complicate matters with bold or busy patterns. A touch of stripe or a soft sketchbook motif is enough"

RUSTIC FINISH
Rope, bamboo, weaves and linens reveal their detail against deep, flat blue

Change up with the seasons

This deep blue creates a cool and shady mood in summer, and a comforting, cocooning feel in wintertime. Just swap light cottons and linens for chunky wool, velvets and faux furs when temperatures drop and add in moody lighting.

WHY INTERIOR DESIGNERS LOVE...

Blush tones

THINK OF THESE SOFT PINKS, PEACHY TINTS AND CARAMEL-NUDES AS NEUTRALS. THEY BLEND IN RATHER THAN CONTRAST, GIVING GREY, BEIGE OR WHITE ROOMS A WELCOME FLUSH OF COLOUR

FLAT FINISH
Choose matt effects and chalky paints for powdery pinks

THIS PAGE Walls in Light Rose active emulsion, Sanderson at Style Library. Coco **bed**, Loaf. Gaspard **side table**, My Furniture. Olivia ruffle **pillows**, Also Home. Rosa linen **bed set**, LinenMe. **Cushions**, Nina Kullberg. Pink **throw**, John Lewis & Partners

Go all-over

'The effect of blush pink strengthens over a large area to make rooms richer and more intimate,' says Joa Studholme, colour curator at Farrow & Ball.



> ‘Blush pink will work well in any light, but is particularly effective in west-facing rooms that enjoy the evening sun.’
>
> **JOA STUDHOLME,** FARROW & BALL

In the mood

Bring warmth to a pale living room with blush upholstery. ‘The mood it creates is like a warm embrace from someone you’ve got a crush on,’ says Marianne Shillingford, creative director at Dulux.

ABOVE Hoxton **sofa** in Bracklyn Blush, Parker Knoll. Taylor **coffee table**, Sofa.com. Kashan Remix **rug**, Mineheart. Blue Stem linen **cushion**, Loom & Last. Victor Pasmore Tate **cushion**, We Love Cushions. Twill linen long **cushion;** Calade Pink **vase**, both The Conran Shop. Porcelain round tray, Nordic House. Provençal **pot**, Pale & Interesting. **Ceramics**, from a selection at Liberty, Lorfords and Petersham Nurseries. **Books**, from a selection, Tate Shop

SLEEK DESIGN
The colour won't look twee on contemporary handless doors

Kitchen crush

'My favourite use of pink at the moment is in kitchens,' says Joa Studholme, colour curator at Farrow & Ball, 'which people often want to be their lightest space, but not white,'

ABOVE Integra Soho **kitchen** in Lilac Blossom, Magnet, is a similar style. Catania Violet **tiles**; Kanzi tiles, both Topps Tiles. OPPOSITE PAGE Fragments **wallpaper**, Rebel Walls. Lampert **sofa**, Jonathan Adler. **Coffee table**, as before. **Console table**, Lorfords. Sienna rug, Cox & Cox. *Percy Padden* **painting**, Maison Artefact. **Quilt**; **cushion**, both Raj Tent Club. Round **cushion**, Rockett St George. Rectangular **cushion**, Cox & Cox. Pink **cushion cover**, The Conran Shop. Tate **cushion**, as before. Verona **lamps**, Pooky. **Books**, from a selection, Tate Shop. Sabrina **bowl**, Arteriors. Provençal **pot**, Pale & Interesting. **Vase**, Arteriors. Setsuko **bowl**, Petersham Nurseries. **Carafe**; Wabi **dish**, both The Conran Shop

The best BLUSH PINK SHADES

SWEETEST TINT
Dorchester Pink Mid absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

BROWN TONES
Sulking Room Pink estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball

CREAMY NEUTRAL
Smock matt emulsion, Cox & Cox

PLASTER PINK
Powdered Clay matt emulsion, Homebase



Wrest Trail wallpaper; Perennial Grey absolute matt emulsion, both Little Greene. Treviso desk, Heal's

Pattern play

'Pink is super-versatile – the ideal backdrop for bold patterns,' says interior designer Louise Robinson. 'You can go as bold and as colourful as you like!'

What the experts say...

■ **'Blush makes north-facing rooms much happier,'** says Marianne Shillingford. 'Plus, if you have good light, it will fill the space with subtle energy, making it a great choice for bedrooms and living rooms.'

■ **'The charm of blush pink is that it is warm without being saccharine,'** says Farrow & Ball's Joa Studholme. 'It has also become one of the most popular colours in men's shirts in recent years, so it can't be accused of being a feminine colour any more,' adds Marianne. 'Team it with warm stone neutrals and a touch of black to reclaim it for spaces shared by both sexes.'

■ **'Blush pink can clash with orangey wood, such as pine flooring,'** warns interiors stylist Ali Attenborough. 'To avoid this, use a cooler, grey-toned pink in a mid-to-light weight instead.'

■ **'When paired with neutrals, it's important to avoid harsh contrasts,'** says Joa. 'Our Dimity shade has an underlying pink tone that's sympathetic to blush pinks.'

■ **'I love the softness of a powdery blush against bold, earthy colours,'** says interior designer Louise Robinson. 'Try crimson, burgundy, burnt orange, ochre and green. It also works well with natural woods and aged brass.'

■ **'My favourite neutral to team with blush is warm grey,'** says Marianne. 'Add a little ochre to make a statement.'



Pavilion Trellis **wallpaper**, Albany. Tuvan **console**, from The Dormy House; **painted** in Sea Urchin 2 satinwood, Dulux

Coral & aqua

ONE BRINGS GENTLE HEAT, WHILE THE OTHER WILL COOL THINGS DOWN, SO COMBINE THESE TWO SHADES TO ACHIEVE PERFECT BALANCE

PAINT WALLS IN CORAL BLUSH This earthy, faded terracotta tone will give your room a natural glow. It comes alive in summer sunlight, but on cold, grey days will still lend gentle warmth that's an easy fix for north-facing spaces.

OPT FOR CONTEMPORARY FURNITURE Try this colour on walls if your furniture is simple and modern. It'll look too sugary with traditional cottage-style or shabby-chic pieces, so keep shapes sleek and finishes unfussy.

USE AQUA WITH CONFIDENCE It may be bold but this mid-blue tone is timeless and simple to use. The shade sits happily with other hues of colour for a harmonious, layered look and is beautifully offset when teamed with pale tones and warm neutrals. Pick one or two areas of your scheme to use it and do so with gusto.

PLAY WITH COMPLEMENTING SHADES To make a space feel more sumptuous and add a little more depth, move along the colour spectrum of coral, to deeper reds and dark pinks. You can then add in touches of gold or copper which will bring a luxe look to your décor and a feeling of glamour.

Try it... in a hallway

Choose a patterned paper in a cosy tone, but paint the rooms leading off the hallway in paler, fresher colours. This way the contrast will make them feel light, open and more spacious. Inject energy with a single piece of furniture, such as a console, in a punchy aqua blue.

Try it... in a bedroom

If you've opted for coral on the walls, then it's important to balance out the warm tone with lots of crisp white and cool, fresh blue. Linen bedding in an aqua-grey shade makes for an inviting sleep space, with a smart, boutique hotel feel to it.



> “The earthy tone of coral blends beautifully with natural shades of cream, white and wood tones”

Get the look



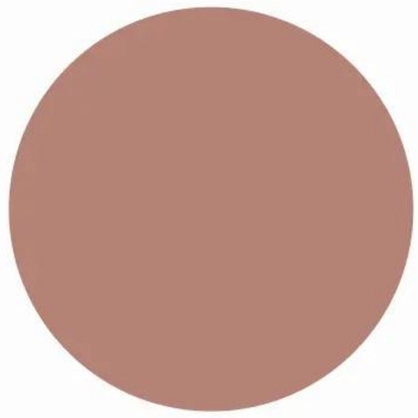
Drapes well for curtains or blinds. Provence & Old White linen, Linen Union collection, Annie Sloan

+



Opt for a maximalist look with this showstopping design. Crane Fonda coral wallpaper, Divine Savages

+



This peachy terracotta shade has soft pink at its core. Red 03 matt emulsion, Lick

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ADD AN ACCENT
OFF-WHITE



Layer a couple of these on the bed for simple style. Brodie Off-White cushion, Rhoom

Walls in Valspar V700 Terracotta Blush emulsion, B&Q. Raul king **bed frame**, Barker & Stonehouse. Ariella chevron **sideboard**, Graham & Green. Washed linen **duvet cover set**, H&M Home



For a mediterranean-style background, try Red Grunge wallpaper mural, Murals Wallpaper. Cactus in bell jar; Cactus ornament; Hanging Wire fern, all George Home

Plaster pink

THIS GOES-WITH-ANYTHING SHADE WILL SEE YOU THROUGH THE SEASONS GENTLY

KNOW YOUR HUE Neither sugary nor sweet, plaster pink is really more of a neutral. Soft, earthy, with undertones of grey, it'll give a room a layer of subtle colour and texture that blends in rather than contrasts and is at its best in rooms with plenty of natural light.

TRY A PAINT EFFECT Use chalk paints or flat, matt finishes to replicate the look of freshly plastered walls. Or apply a rough skim and a paint wash, building up the colour gradually for a mediterranean-style stucco effect.

GET THE BACKDROP RIGHT With its faded tones and aged patina, plaster pink makes a good background colour for antique furniture, washed woods and weather-beaten metals including old gold and gilt. Team with glazed terracotta, earthy encaustic tiles or colourful terrazzo on floors.

SOFTEN THE LOOK Adding hints of darker terracotta, brick-red tones and mineral greys and blues will give depth to a room, but keep to the same faded shades and aged finishes as overly bright colours will jar – think faded tapestry rugs and kilims, time-worn fabrics, weather-beaten baskets and rusted metalware.

Try it... in a home office

A mediterranean-style plaster wall effect can be achieved by using a realistic faux-plaster wallpaper. Team it with a busy terrazzo floor, old wooden desk and rattan garden chair and no-one will ever know the difference.

Try it... in a kitchen

Blur the lines in a kitchen with a muted, modern scheme in shades of earthy pink. Paint cabinets in a soft blush and team with matt-white worktops and brick-red splashbacks. Plank-style wood-effect tiles on the floor look realistic while being more practical than real wood.



Fabienne Plain in Russet wallpaper, Sanderson. Small Boucle Accents carpet in Limestone C719, Crucial Trading. Nima rug, Perch & Parrow. Curtains made in Keaton Spice, Clarke & Clarke. Isla three-seater sofa in Taupe brushed linen, Sofa.com. Harley armchair, Content by Conran.



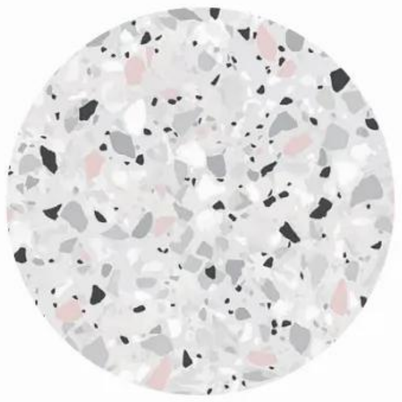
“Balance plaster pink with soft white, plus touches of warm sand, stone or caramel”

Get the look



Soften the mood with a sheer curtain fabric.
Alara Clay decorative sheer fabric, Romo

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Bring in some colour with a faux-terrazzo wallpaper.
Terrazzo pink wallpaper, Graham & Brown

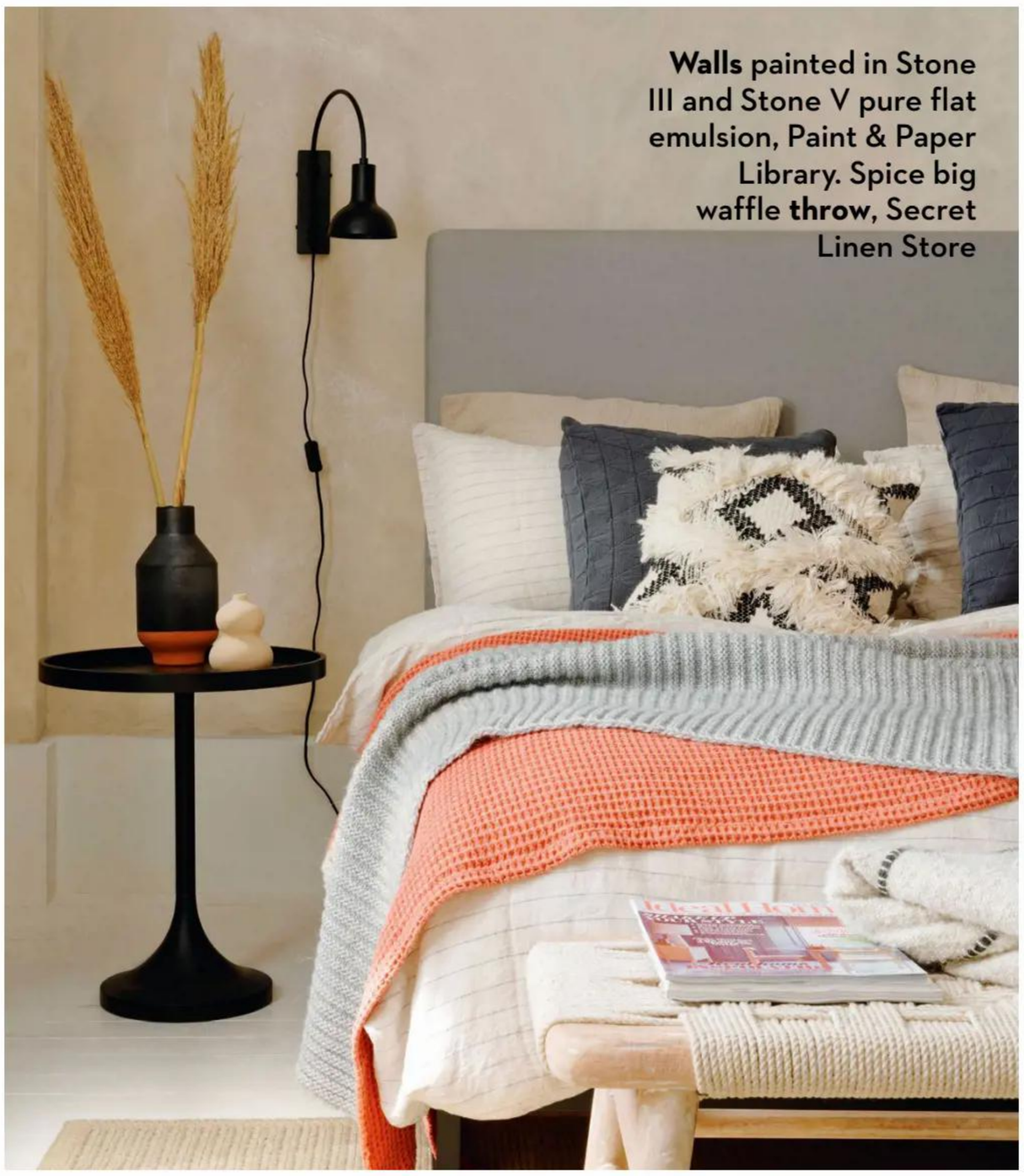
+

Paint walls a soft buff tone to create a calm feel.
Stucco 1829 chalky emulsion, Craig & Rose

ADD AN ACCENT
CORAL



Bring in darker brick red for contrast.
Barnaby serving bowl, Habitat



Walls painted in Stone III and Stone V pure flat emulsion, Paint & Paper Library. Spice big waffle **throw**, Secret Linen Store

Blush & coal

ONE IS LIGHTER THAN AIR, THE OTHER CARRIES WEIGHT, BUT TEAMING THESE SHADES JUST PROVES THAT OPPOSITES ATTRACT

START WITH THE BLUSH Don't think of it as pink, it's really a neutral – a barely-there flush that gives a room a layer of colour and blends in rather than contrasts. Use it to add quiet sophistication and a fresh hint of prettiness that will upgrade any look, from simple country to upscale glamour.

BE BOLD WITH BLACK A smoky dark grey, with undertones of blue, coal is an off-black that has an understated sexiness to it, perfect for pairing with a delicate pink. Use it on woodwork, in window dressings and in furniture choices, too.

LAYER UP TEXTURES With colours that make you want to stroke the walls, add in tactile fabrics like linens and knits so your entire space has texture. Fluted-front furniture, rope-wrapped benches and tufted rugs and cushions will all create a relaxing space to snuggle up in.

KEEP PATTERN SIMPLE These soothing colours are key so don't overcomplicate things with busy patterns. Simple geometrics, block prints or plain weaves will complement the scheme rather than fussy patterns that will clash with the calmness.

DILUTE WITH WHITE Pale toned pieces in flat, neutral shades of white and cream will ground this look, and ensure it looks smart and sophisticated.

'Try it... in a bedroom

For a cosy bedroom, turn up the heat and choose a blush pink with a little more spice in it. Layer bedding in this warm shade with mid-greys and neutrals, then bring in striking coal accessories such as wall lights, side tables and cushions.

'Try it... in a living room

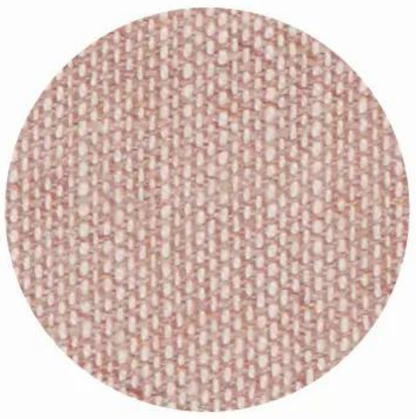
Drench walls in a flat, pale pink, but add unexpected interest by picking out skirting boards with a dark, coal shade. Choose three or four additional areas or items to carry this colour, like a sideboard or coffee table, then opt for creamy-white accessories and seating.

Walls painted in Masquerade, Masquerade Light and Julia's Dream absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene



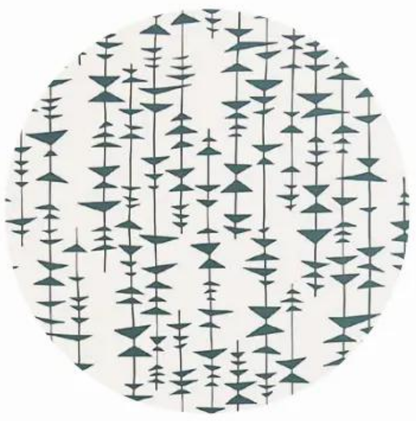
> “Choose one statement item for each space, such as a patterned rug or a piece of artwork, so the room doesn’t feel crowded”

Get the look



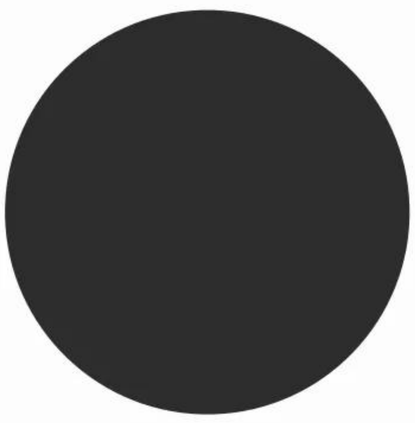
This open-weave linen has a delicate vintage look. Imogen washed linen fabric in Oyster Pink, Neptune

+



A modernist design that brings rhythmic pattern to walls. Ditto silhouette wallpaper, Miss Print

+



This off-black pairs well with neutrals. Lamp Black absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

ADD AN ACCENT
PALE GREY



Light grey offers a moment of calm. Spool table lamp; with 30cm shade, both Pooky

| COLOUR CLUB |

Peach & Crimson

THE DESIGN KNOW-HOW BEHIND THE TOP COLOUR COMBO, TO HELP YOU WORK IT LIKE A PRO

PEACH BASE

Subtle, warm and inviting, peach is a smart shade that adds an air of calm. It has a cocooning feel that works well in rooms for relaxing in. The deeper the hue, the more sophisticated it looks, while lighter-toned peach shades give a fresher feel. As well as layering with tonal shades of coral and burnt orange, complementary shades of turquoise from the blue family and spearmint from the green family all work beautifully with peach.

PAINT COLOURS
Clockwise from top:
Terracotta Tiles durable matt emulsion, Ideal Home range at Albany. Perky Peach Regal Select flat, Benjamin Moore. Mulled Wine durable matt emulsion, Ideal Home range at Albany

CRIMSON ACCENTS

Adding in swathes of a deeper, harmonious shade of crimson brings a richness to the peach base, and in this case, a luxe sumptuousness thanks to the velvet fabrics. Use this rich, red shade in different areas of the space to anchor the scheme, both on upholstery and accessories for a balanced material mix.



Walls in Perky Peach, Benjamin Moore; **Lucy bed** in Claret Cotton Matt Velvet; **Betty armchair** in Orchid Cotton Matt Velvet, both Sofa.com



BLACK FINISHING TOUCHES

While gold or brass details would also work well in this scheme, black adds a contemporary edge to the space, making what might tip over into a quite feminine scheme feel a lot more grounded and modern.

SOFT PINK HIGHLIGHTS

Another colour adjacent to peach and crimson on the colour wheel is pink. The introduction of delicate powder-pink highlights on soft furnishings can build further on the harmonious layered look. The softer saturation of this pink hue acts to bridge the two stronger shades together with its subtlety, rather than fight against them. Introduce it in small- to medium-sized areas of the scheme. Pattern provides an excellent medium for adding this highlight colour, together with either one or both of the core shades.

> “Using the paler peach on the walls and the darker crimson on upholstery balances the two tones perfectly, and creates a room for all seasons”

Walls painted in Tuscan Red absolute matt emulsion; woodwork and door painted in Tuscan Red intelligent eggshell, Little Greene

COLOUR EDIT

Berry blush

OUR COLOUR EXPERTS PRESENT THIS MODERN TAKE ON RED AND SHARE HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'This is a vivacious shade of coral tinged with pink – the kind of colour that fills the room with exuberance and delight. If you want to be brave, combine with a pale pink or a nutty cinnamon. Alternatively, pair it with a neutral shade to allow Raspberry Blush to take centre stage as an accent.'
HELEN SHAW, MARKETING DIRECTOR, BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'Using raspberry is a bold decorating move, and gives the room an instant injection of vibrancy, energy and a sense of playfulness. For a classic scheme, perhaps for a dining room with rich woods like walnut, pair raspberry with a muted neutral. Injecting a colour pop doesn't have to be full on floor-to-ceiling; consider just painting the woodwork in raspberry – or perhaps just the ceiling.'
ANNA HILL, BRAND DIRECTOR, FENWICK & TILBROOK

'While berry red may feel like a nostalgic trip to the dining rooms of the 1980s, used judiciously it can feel modern and vibrant and add a splash of exuberant warmth. This allows it to become a consideration even for the smallest of spaces, such as a powder room, where walls drenched in full gloss will deliver some Hollywood glamour '
PATRICK O'DONNELL, INTERNATIONAL BRAND AMBASSADOR, FARROW & BALL

'For a cohesive, contemporary approach, consider colour drenching. Move away from white skirting boards and create a dynamic interior by painting walls, woodwork, radiators, the ceiling and doors using the same rich colour.'

RUTH MOTTERSHEAD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

'Try shades with a pink undertone for rooms that have a lot of natural light, or for a more dramatic, darker feel, try ones with red and purple undertones to create a luxurious atmosphere.'
FIONA MCGRATH, MARKETING EXECUTIVE, COLOURTREND



> "Combine these bright **RASPBERRY REDS** with **COBALT BLUES**, or **OCHRE YELLOWS**, for a modern approach"
>
> **NICKY PHILLIPS,** INTERIOR STYLIST & DESIGNER

the edit BERRY BLUSH

BEST FOR ADDING DRAMA
Thorned Rose chalky matt emulsion, William Morris

BEST FOR A COSY SNUG
Can Can pure matt emulsion, Fenwick & Tilbrook

BEST FOR AN ENTERTAINING SPACE
Delilah claypaint, Earthborn

BEST FOR PAIRING WITH GREY
Raspberry Blush, from Benjamin Moore

BEST FOR TEAMING WITH PINKS
Indica Berry matt, Francesca's Paints



For similar curtain **fabric**, Sabuli by Kai in Clay, Jane Clayton & Company. Similar woven rattan **pendant light**, The Wall Lighting Company

Burgundy & rose pink

GIVE THIS ROMANTIC PAIRING A GROUNDED FEEL FOR A WARM AND INVITING SPACE

GO FOR A MIX OF MATERIALS Wine red burgundy and rose petal pink may seem like an overly feminine combination at first glance, but this emotive duo can be adapted for any space. Try teaming with earthy elements such as rustic wood panelling and unfinished surfaces like plaster, concrete and terracotta to toughen the look.

MELLOW SUGARY SHADES Elevate pinks and reds by pairing with natural tones and textures. Keep within the same spectrum, but introduce reddy-browns and pale plaster to temper the scheme. Pale grey accents are another option to take the combination from girly to grounded.

INTRODUCE TACTILE ELEMENTS Avoid overly intricate patterns such as ditsy florals and instead focus on adding interest with texture. Crinkled linen and open-weave fabrics have an informal feel, while untreated wood grains and knotted macramé hangings lend a rustic idyll.

SET THE MOOD Complement your colour scheme with the perfect mood lighting. Floor-standing reading lamps, low-hung pendants and even a touch of candlelight will create a versatile ambience. Just be sure to pick warm-white bulbs over cool LEDs to prevent the room feeling stark.

Try it... in a snug

Create a cosy corner with heavy curtains, a thick wool rug and comfy cushions. Perfect for keeping out chills, absorbing noise and helping to make the room an all-round comfortable space you'll hanker to spend time in.

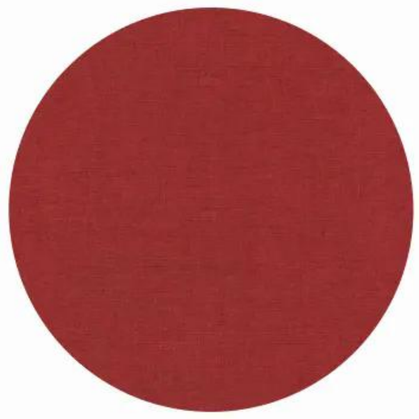
Try it... in a bedroom

A plush upholstered headboard in luxurious burgundy velvet is a dreamy focal point in a boudoir. Balance with layers of washed linen bedding, seersucker throws and woven cushions with a global vibe to keep the look from appearing too sickly sweet.

> “Hints of raw materials such as concrete, wood and metal juxtapose the heady romance of pretty pinks and deep reds”

Mandarin **bed frame**; Globe **nest of tables**; concrete and gold **table lamp**, all Furniture Village

Get the look



Slubby linen brings a textural element. Light linen in Medoc, Lewis & Wood at Jane Clayton & Company

+



Fake rustic wall panelling with wallpaper. Wood planking in Brown, Wallpaperdirect

+

Creamy neutral grounds the look. New Chapter luxurious flat matt, Crafted by Crown, Homebase

ADD AN ACCENT
BRASS



Toughen up the look with warm metallics. Moyo antique brass lantern, Rose & Grey



Chatsworth large leather **sofa**, Tetrad. Picture Gallery Red estate **emulsion**, Farrow & Ball

Terracotta & ochre

ESCAPE TO WARMER CLIMES WITH A COMBINATION OF SUN-BAKED HUES

RECREATE HOLIDAY VIBES Deep terracotta conjures images of Mediterranean roof tiles and aged ceramic pots lined up on a sun-drenched terrace. The word terracotta literally translates as 'baked earth', making it the perfect colour choice for adding warmth to a room scheme.

PICK THE RIGHT YELLOW When choosing between shades of yellow, ochre is a grown-up choice with a mellow quality when compared to its perkier, more youthful counterparts such as lemon, buttercup or canary. This on-trend hue is a harmonious accent across a variety of schemes from retro to ultra-modern.

TRUST IN NATURE Terracotta and ochre are a colour combination made in heaven as they are both derived from natural clay pigments. The grounded nature of reddy-brown terracotta underpins the vibrancy of golden ochre, creating balance within a scheme.

LAYER ON SOFTNESS Elevate this earthy pairing with luxurious shapes and textures. Pick a curvaceous sofa in plush ochre velvet featuring classic turned-wood feet. Wall panelling has a traditional look that's brought up to date when painted in this earthy colourway.

Try it... in a study

Create a laid-back drawing room vibe in a home office or study area with a rich leather Chesterfield sofa or armchair and collected curiosities such as artisan glazed ceramics, wooden trinket boxes and plenty of books to peruse.

Try it... in a living room

If using a dark colour on walls, choose a lighter surface on floors to avoid the room feeling too enclosed. A pale wood laminate or vinyl is a good contemporary choice, teamed with a natural jute rug for added texture.

> “Putting a rich, earthy colour like terracotta on the walls will instantly make your space feel cocooning”

Nutkin **Claypaint**, Earthborn

Get the look



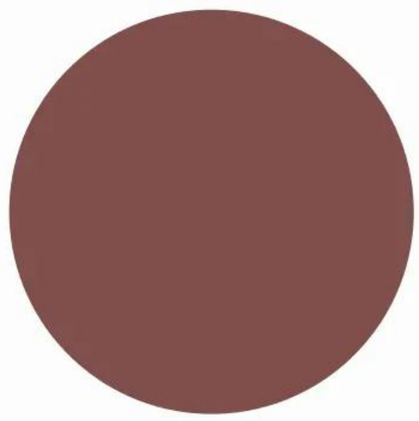
Imitate traditional panelling with wallpaper. Oak wood panel, Woodchip & Magnolia

+



Add opulence with rich ochre velvet. Breamore fabric in Gold, Blendworth at Jane Clayton & Company

+



Pick an earthy reddy-brown in an ultra-matt finish. Arras absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

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ADD AN ACCENT
COOL BLUE



Choose accessories in a cooler tone. Blue glass vase, Gisela Graham

| COLOUR EDIT |

Lilac

OUR COLOUR EXPERTS PRESENT THIS DELICATE SHADE AND SHARE HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

Cabinets painted in mixed Aubusson Blue and Emperor's Silk; walls in Antoinette, Annie Sloan

'What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'Lilac brings a soft, ethereal quality to a space, encouraging a feeling of relaxation and calm. It is ideal for bedrooms and connecting spaces. Pair with a pale, warm grey and pops of teal for depth.'

HELEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'When mixing lilac with other shades, choose one strong contrasting hue and use it sparingly – try a pattern with yellow flecks or a block of mustard. Or layer with shades of its parent colour, purple.'

ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN PAINT

'Lilac works as a tint of white, as well as a saturated shade. We always nuance lilac with earth pigment to avoid it becoming too saccharin. It flatters grey-whites wonderfully, but it also sits beautifully with the warmer tones of polished wood, such as old mahogany.'

EDWARD BULMER, INTERIOR DESIGNER & FOUNDER, EDWARD BULMER NATURAL PAINT

'Paired with deeper olive green or charcoal grey, lilac becomes a much more sophisticated colour. Combine it with natural materials and textures in your bathroom to create a spa-like retreat.'

MICHELLE TURNER, MARKETING MANAGER, EARTHBORN PAINTS

'Adding a splash of verdant green will enhance the springtime emotion of delicate lilac, either on bedside tables in a guest room or more discreetly as a rug border in your living room.'

PATRICK O'DONNELL, INTERNATIONAL BRAND AMBASSADOR, FARROW & BALL

'You can successfully use lilac in a dark, dramatic interior. Paint the wall, skirting and cornicing in the same deep wine colour, with a lighter lilac shade on the ceiling for an illusion of height.'

ANDY GREENALL, HEAD OF DESIGN, PAINT & PAPER LIBRARY

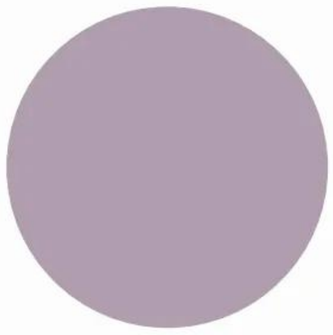


Bring a smart feel to whimsical lilac with black furniture and steely-grey details. Wall in African Violet matt emulsion, Benjamin Moore

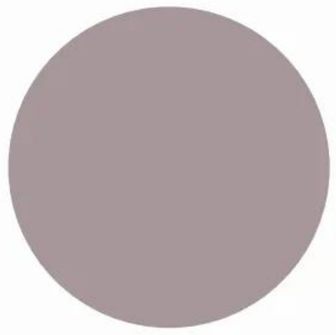
"Surround lilac with strong **MOODY** purples to create a **SERENE** atmosphere or use with **SOFT** pink for a warm, **ROMANTIC** feeling"

ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN CHALK PAINT

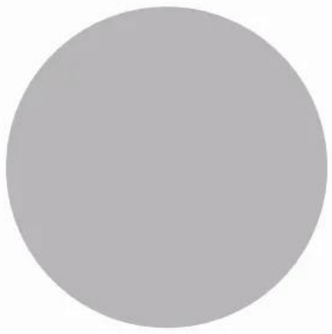
the edit LILAC



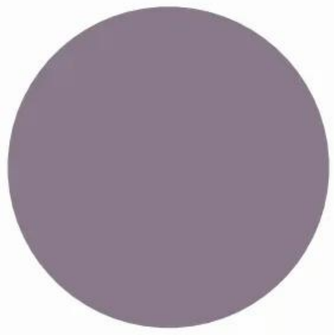
BEST FOR PAIRING WITH GREY
Sea Heather absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene



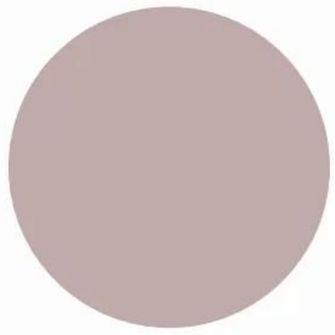
BEST FOR KITCHEN CABINETS
Lilac Wine kitchen cupboard paint, Rust-Oleum



BEST FOR A BEDROOM
Calluna estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball



BEST FOR ADDING DRAMA
Lavender Field matt emulsion, Lust Home



BEST FOR A TRAD SETTING
Isabella emulsion, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint

Oscar table **lamp**; Ole **chair** in Ginger Steel with Drizzle seat, both Broste Copenhagen at Folk Interiors. Kamille **table**, from Broste Copenhagen. Horn vase in Puce; Broste Copenhagen at Amara. Anon cork **bowls**, Royal Design

| WHY INTERIOR DESIGNERS LOVE... |

Heather purples

THESE TONES TIP TOWARDS BLUE ON ONE SIDE AND REDDISH MAUVES ON THE OTHER, BRINGING CALM AND WARMTH TO WHEREVER YOU USE THEM

Heal your home

'These rich, luxurious tones can take a room from dull and dreary to luxe and lavish. They channel the healing properties of amethyst, believed to soothe stress and anxiety,' says colour expert Annie Sloan

Chimney breast in Marble V emulsion, Paint & Paper Library. Similar Plum Ombre **mural**, from Murals Wallpaper. Karlsson Teal velvet **armchair**, Lombok. Eden Dusky Mushroom **sofa**, Sofa Workshop. **Console**, The Conran Shop. Madrid **coffee table**, BoConcept. Pine cone **side table**, Graham & Green. Patina **rug**, Wayfair. Urbanite Dream **artwork**, Perch & Parrow. **ON MANTEL Sculpture**, Amara. **Amethyst**, from Hurn & Hurn. **Candlestick**, Lene Bjerre. **ON CONSOLE Lamp**, David Hunt Lighting. Fenix **stand**, Graham & Green. **ON COFFEE TABLE Candlestick**, Amara. **Vase; votive**, both Lene Bjerre. **Tray**, One.World. **ON SIDE TABLE Vase**, Wyld Home. **ON ARMCHAIR** Bohemia Grey **cushion**, Andrew Martin. **ON SOFA** Hunstanton Navy **cushion cover**, Jim Lawrence. **Cushion** in Clerkenwell Fig Grey velvet, Style Library. Ossington **cushion**, Andrew Martin

Scale & mood

'Warm and comforting, heather purples combine the receding values of blue, to make a space feel larger, and the warming properties of red, which can make it feel cosy,' says Annie Sloan.

> “If you don’t want to paint your walls in heather purple, introduce the colour through accent pieces such as a chair or sofa”
>
> **KAREN THOMAS,** MARKS & SPENCER

Sophia large **sofa** in Bellevue Lilac; Harriet **chair** in Heatley Twill Blush; Beatrix **rug** in Terracotta; Farley marble round **nest of tables**; Farley marble square **coffee table**; Leda floor **lamp**; Aubrey **throw**; triangle chenille **cushion**; chenille **cushion**; linear hurricane; diamond cut glass ombre **vase**, all Marks & Spencer

Go tone-on-tone

‘Heather purples range across a broad palette of cool and warm shades you can mix together for a layered, tonal scheme. They look great with blush pink accents, too,’ says Karen Thomas, Head of Design at Marks & Spencer.

Go for gold

'Gold, as a yellow colour, is complementary to purple, so add gold or brass for a richer, bolder look. Lamps, shelves or cabinet handles are the easiest way to do this,' says Annie Sloan.

Bloomingville Layla brass **shelf**, Nunido **TOP SHELF** Brown cylindrical **vase**, Connox; Purple 107 glass **vase**, Nunido; similar Finbarr Amethyst **vase**, Dartington Crystal **MIDDLE SHELF** Similar Moroccan pink **vase**, Amara; similar Rose globe **vase**, AYTM at Amara; similar Purple ombre melted **vase**, Amara; Bloomingville Pink bud **vase**, Trouva **BOTTOM SHELF** Brass **vase** with handles, Nunido; handcrafted red glass **vase**, Lillian Daph; table **vase**; Wayfair

The best HEATHER PURPLES

DEEP AND RICH
Autumn Purple matt emulsion, Benjamin Moore

INTENSE SHADE
Meadow Violet active emulsion, Sanderson

WARM BALANCE
Heather Climb paint mixing matt, Dulux

SOFTLY DOES IT
Emile chalk paint, Annie Sloan



Clockwise From top left: Eternal Dusk; Velour Grape; Envision Chrome; Velour Orchid; Velour Heather; Moondust Dusk; Afterglow Chrome; Gemstone Otter; Radiance Dusk, all Prestigious Textiles

Soothing scheme

'Heather hues work all year round, but I'd recommend using a co-ordinating patterned fabric or wallpaper instead of a solid wall colour, so you can update the look by season or mood,' says Rebecca Craig of the Sanderson Studio at Style Library

What the experts say...

■ **'These shades are a modern update for a neutral room scheme.** Heather tones and soft, dusky shades of purple are a world away from the 1970s take on the colour purple,' says Karen Thomas.

■ **'It's easy to keep them up to date,'** agrees Rebecca Craig. 'Paired with the right highlight colours, such as powder blue, slate and metallics, heather shades are ideal for contemporary style.'

■ **'I've seen them used in extremely modern ways,'** says Annie Sloan. 'They work on slick, geometric furniture and on walls. I would consider the tone you're using – a lighter, bluer lilac heather lends its pastel hue beautifully to a mid-century modern design, whereas a deeper, duskier heather would suit older Victorian furniture.'

■ **'Redder, earthier shades work best in living rooms,'** adds Rebecca. 'They add a sense of warmth and homeliness to a space and you can make them more luxurious by adding warm metallics. For bedrooms, choose bluer lilac tones for a calming ambiance.'

■ **'You can pair them with either a cool or a warm neutral,'** explains Annie. 'Purple is made from both blue and red – cool and warm – so you can get away with either. If you're going to add an accent colour, make sure the neutral you're using will work with that, too.'

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FUTURE

| IH COLOUR EDIT |

Blackberry

THIS MONTH, OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS DELICIOUS SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT

A smoky shade with a grey base is very adaptable. **Wall** in Clove emulsion; Chawton **sideboard** in Clove, both Neptune

What the experts say...

Colour consultants share their views

'Blackberry is a truly wild delight. It captures the essence of early autumn and is perfect for wrapping your walls in before snuggling down for winter.'
MARIANNE SHILLINGFORD,
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, DULUX

'As an alternative to the popular dark blues of the last few seasons, our Blackberry Wine is more visually interesting because secondary colours have richer undertones and catch the light in a dynamic way.'
HELEN SHAW, MARKETING DIRECTOR,
BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'Atmospheric blackberry shades ooze sophistication and maturity. Teamed with soft velvets and gold fixtures, they're the perfect luxury finisher for any space, while damson is gorgeous on panelling.'
JESSICA PLATEO, MARKETING MANAGER,
CRAIG & ROSE

'It's all about selecting the right tone. Purples with an underlying red create an intimate space, while blue-based Pelt is more dramatic. Blackberry shades work best in small spaces – perfect for a bathroom.'
JOA STUDHOLME, COLOUR CURATOR,
FARROW & BALL

'Plum Purple is super-versatile and perfect for bedrooms, creating an elegant, relaxing backdrop. Mixed with hot-pink velvet upholstery, it can also create a real maximalist statement.'
THE DESIGN TEAM, NEXT

'Damson shades sit beautifully with driftwood colours to create a soft but rich palette, while purple is connected to royalty, spirituality and magic, and can work in just about any room.'
SIMON TEMPRELL, INTERIOR DESIGN, NEPTUNE

'Mix in tones that are opposite to blackberry on the colour wheel, like olive green, chartreuse or ochre. It is the perfect colour for a traditional setting as well as a more minimal urban scheme.'
NICKY PHILLIPS, INTERIOR STYLIST & DESIGNER



Deep purple creates glamour. **Panelling** in Pelt estate eggshell, Farrow & Ball. David Seyfried **sofa** in Tempo Fan in Foxglove, Johnstons of Elgin

> "When using berry **TONES**, create a relaxed, **SATURATED** space by **PAINTING** the walls and woodwork the same colour"
>
> **AARON MARKWELL**, COLOUR CURATOR, COAT PAINT

the edit BLACKBERRY

BEST FOR COCOONING
October Scarf matt emulsion, Ideal Home at Albany

BEST FOR KITCHENS & CLOAKROOMS
Clove emulsion, Neptune

BEST FOR IMPACT & DRAMA
Oh Boysenberry flat matt emulsion, Coat Paints

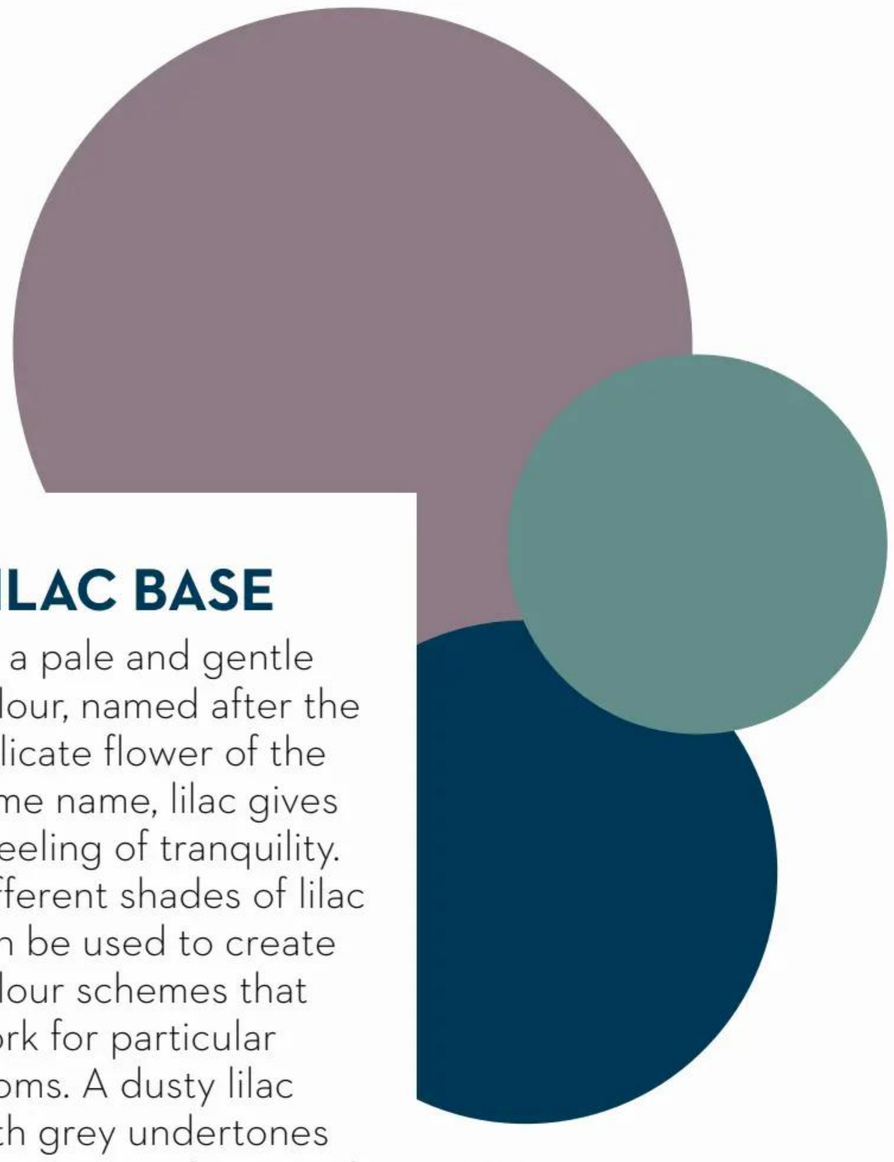
BEST FOR BEDROOMS
Plum Pie matt emulsion, Graham & Brown

BEST FOR COLOUR BALANCE
Pelt estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball

| COLOUR CLUB |

Lilac & navy

THE DESIGN KNOW-HOW BEHIND THE TOP COLOUR COMBO, TO HELP YOU WORK IT LIKE A PRO



LILAC BASE

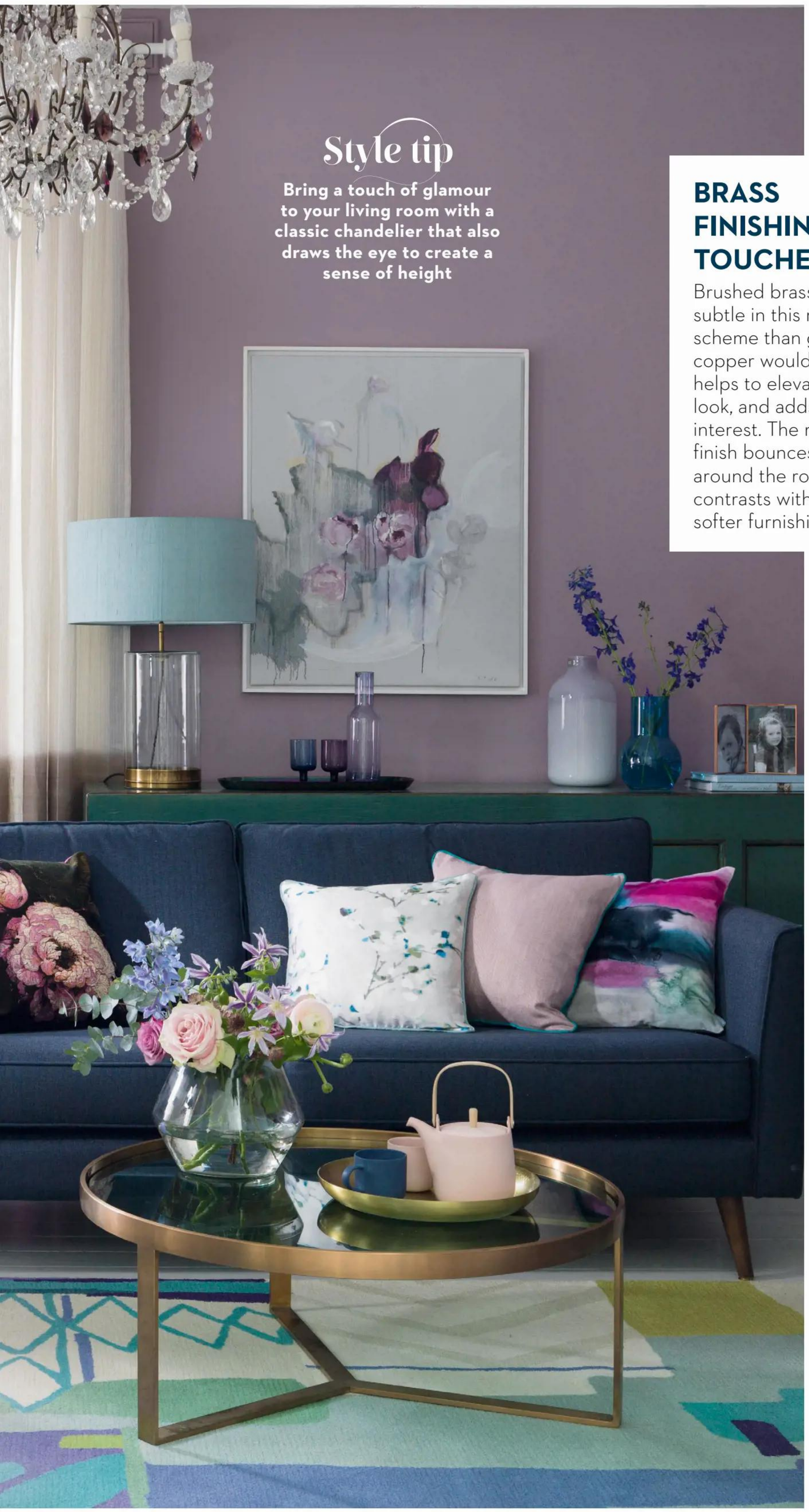
As a pale and gentle colour, named after the delicate flower of the same name, lilac gives a feeling of tranquility. Different shades of lilac can be used to create colour schemes that work for particular rooms. A dusty lilac with grey undertones creates a sophisticated feel for a living room, while more sugary lilacs work well in a bathroom or children's bedroom. Being one of the paler hues of the purple family, it can also look good paired with olive and ochre from the green and yellow families.

PAINT COLOURS
Clockwise from top: Lady Char's Lilac pure flat emulsion, Paint & Paper Library; Maritime Teal velvet matt emulsion, Dulux Heritage; Duffel durable matt emulsion, Ideal Home range at Albany

TEAL ACCENTS

A mix of blue greens in different saturations lend themselves to this scheme when used in small amounts. Soft teal adds pockets of energy to bring the look to life. Add pops at varying places around the room – use the colour on cushions, lamps or a rug, arranged like points on a triangle to create a sense of visual balance.





Style tip

Bring a touch of glamour to your living room with a classic chandelier that also draws the eye to create a sense of height

BRASS FINISHING TOUCHES

Brushed brass is more subtle in this rich scheme than gold or copper would be. This helps to elevate the look, and adds visual interest. The metallic finish bounces light around the room, and contrasts with the softer furnishings.

NAVY BLOCK COLOUR

With lilac as the largest area of colour in the room, add a block of rich blue on a large piece of furniture or rug to ground the look and give the room a smarter, more modern feel. A softer way to add contrast than using black, navy blue will calm the more colourful hues. Blue sits comfortably alongside lilac as they are side by side on the colour wheel and the harmonious blend of lilac, blue and teal evokes serenity and peace. Break up block colour with paler shades on cushions and throws, using a mix of colours found within the scheme.

> ‘Layer dark, midweight and light hues, adding white and pale grey so they don’t overwhelm the space. Delicate florals and watercolour prints soften the look’



Similar **pendant**, Cubus hanging light, lights.co.uk. Try Neve **duvet cover**, Wayfair. Similar **ottoman**, Eton Mess in Stewed Fig clever velvet, Loaf

Clove & lavender

ADD A TOUCH OF SPICE TO DEEP PURPLE FOR A RICH AND WELCOMING COMBINATION

RECONSIDER PURPLE Forget granny's underwear drawer, lavender has had a sophisticated makeover for the modern home. Think dusky tones of soft purple as opposed to the sugary shades associated with shabby-chic interiors.

PAINT A TWO-TONE WALL Sitting somewhere between sultry plum and deep brown, clove will bring a warm and inviting feel to any room. With its rich, enveloping quality, try painting half a wall to avoid overwhelming a smaller space. Balance with a neutral that shares a similar undertone.

INTRODUCE BLACK AND GREY ACCENTS Pair a palette of purples with cool grey tones for a contemporary look. Try painting behind a bed frame in sumptuous lavender then choose a modern grey as an alternative neutral for the rest of the walls. Take it as dark as you dare with charcoal or even black accessories.

ADD TEXTURE WITH FABRICS Pick furnishings and accessories in similar colourways but contrasting textures. A squidgy linen sofa or upholstered headboard topped with wool throws and velvet cushions adds dimension and further contributes to the cosy feel.

Try it... in a bedroom

If dark florals are too much for you on walls, opt for statement bedlinen instead that carries the same appealing shades. Alternatively, introduce bold artwork or a floral-patterned rug in coordinating shades.

Try it... in a living room

Paint a two-tone wall, using the darker clove shade on the bottom in a flat matt finish. Introduce a narrow band of lavender above which visually blends into an off-white to make ceilings feel higher.



Florence **cushion** in Isla Finch; Wycombe **armchair**; Chetham reading **floor lamp**; Coniston **coffee table**, all Neptune

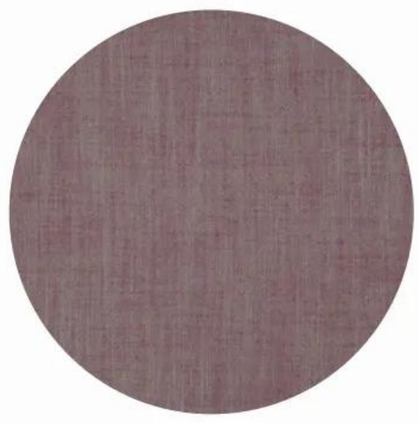
“Combining shades from the same colour palette makes for a cohesive scheme that allows you to express your individual style”

Get the look



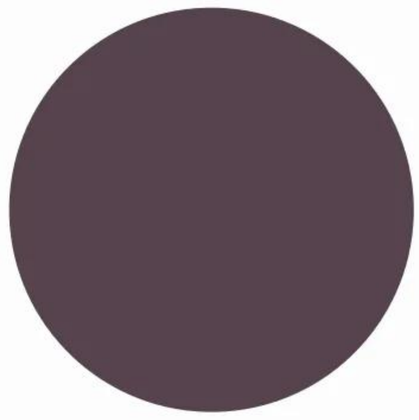
Bring a moody vintage vibe with tapestry florals.
Allure wallpaper, Graham & Brown

+



Upholster a headboard with a textural linen.
Chenies in Fuchsia, Sanderson

+



Be absorbed by deep berry tones.
Clove Paint emulsion, Neptune

ADD AN ACCENT
MATT BLACK



Touches of black offer a contemporary edge.
Drax desk lamp, Pooky

| WHY INTERIOR DESIGNERS LOVE... |

Earthy neutrals

THIS DEEP, NATURAL PALETTE WILL ADD INSTANT WARMTH TO A NEUTRAL SCHEME. CHOOSE RICHER TAN, OCHRE, BAKED EARTH AND SOFT TERRACOTTA TONES GIVE A DEEPER, MORE RELAXING FEEL

All spaces

'These colours work well in any setting – from raw linens and worn leather in this classic country dining room, to velvet sofas and metal accessories in a contemporary living room,' says interior stylist Nicky Phillips.

Fireplace wall in Muddy Boots Claypaint, Earthborn. **Curtains** in (from L-R) Alserio in Osprey, Romo; Botani in Rust, Mark Alexander. Henley round **table**, Neptune. Agna **rug**, Cox & Cox. Vintage leather **armchair**, Louisa Grace Interiors. Woodcroft Windsor **chair**, One.World. Nuzzler sheepskin **rug** (on chair), Loaf. **Cushion** in Deepdale Mustard, Abraham Moon & Sons. Paper Meadow **cushion** in Charcoal, Hannah Nunn. **ON TABLE** Selena linen tablecloth in Saran, Caravane. Bay **pots**, Neptune. Wild Autumn faux **floral display**, Fox Flowers. Hagan ridge **mug** in Salmon, Dassie Artisan. Tuscany **bowl**, Also Home is similar. Theodore **stool**, Alpen Home at Wayfair is a match. Melbourne lambswool **throw** in Gold, Bronte By Moon

Warmer walls

'Start with muted earthy hues, such as mocha or taupe, for the walls and introduce a piece of furniture in an accent shade,' says Jane Rockett of Rockett St George

> "I normally use two or three colours in a room, but you need at least three of these – in varying shades – to provide depth and interest"
>
> **NICKY PHILLIPS,**
> INTERIOR STYLIST & DESIGNER

Beach Nut wallpaper in Cordoba, Little Greene; for a similar coffee table, try Amelia glass and steel coffee table; Sklum; the Carrick lounger chair from Neroli Furnishings is similar.

“Painting the panelling in the same colour as the walls would instantly shift the feel of this room in a more contemporary direction”

AMBER GREENMAN, NEPTUNE HOME DESIGNER

Walls in Chestnut matt emulsion; Charlie double **headboard** in Isla Grouse velvet; Fleming round **mirror**; rectangular **cushion** in Harry linen; Camilla **cushions**; Castleford **lamp base**; Henry **lampshade** in Slate; Carter rectangular **side table**; Albertine double **duvet cover** in Peat, all Neptune. Quilted velvet **throw** in Grey is similar, Idyll Home

Darker twist

‘This room is a deeper, moodier take on earthy neutrals. The contrasting white accents cut through the darker shades for a fresher feel – without them, the scheme would fall a little flat,’ says designer Amber Greenman.

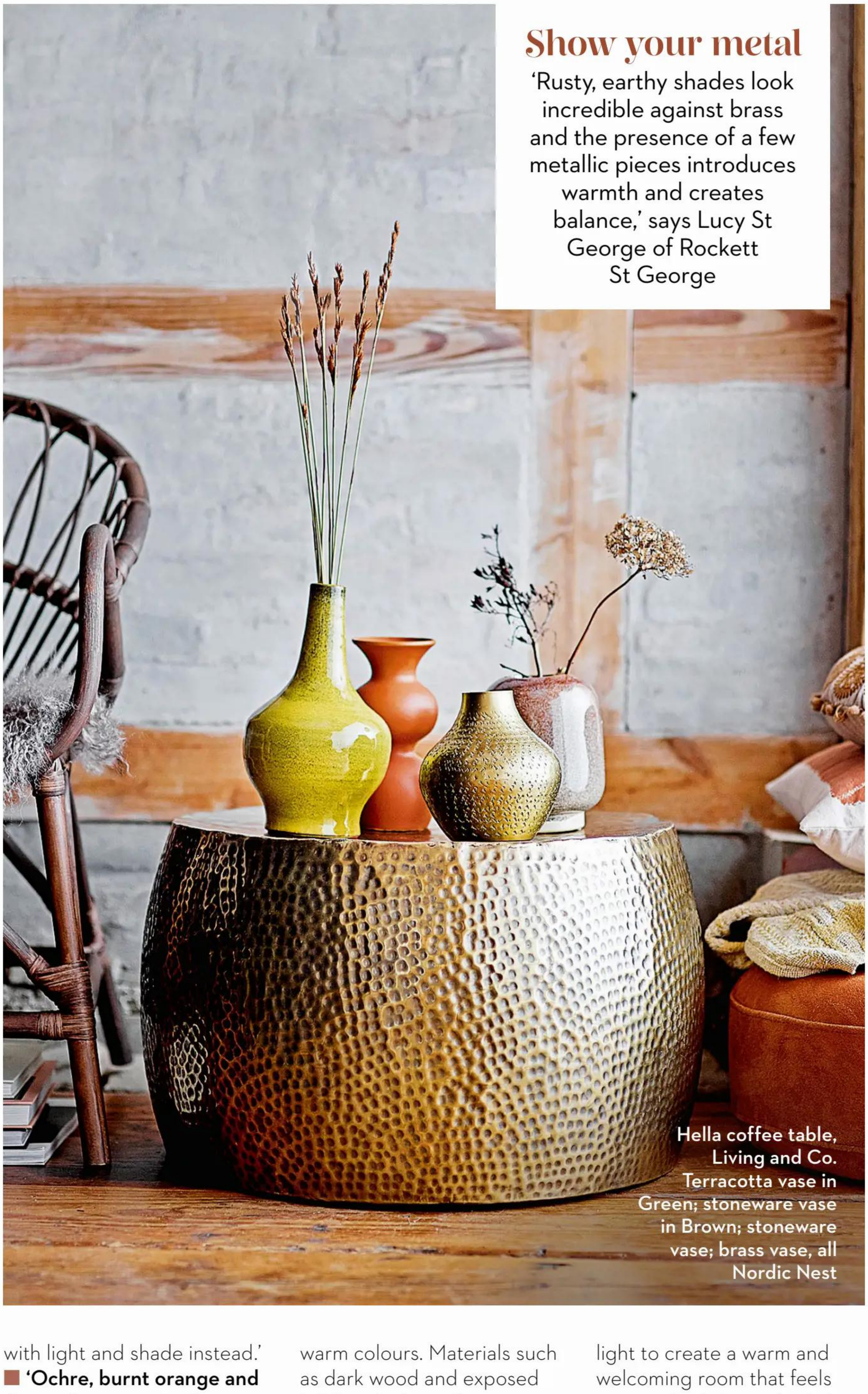
The best WARM NEUTRALS

COSY CARAMEL
Cloisters emulsion, Rockett St George

DESERT DREAMS
Nomadic Glow 1 paint mixing matt, Dulux

TOASTED TAUPE
Picnic Basket matt emulsion, Crown

DEEP AND DUSKY
Salon Drab estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball



Show your metal

'Rusty, earthy shades look incredible against brass and the presence of a few metallic pieces introduces warmth and creates balance,' says Lucy St George of Rockett St George

Hella coffee table, Living and Co. Terracotta vase in Green; stoneware vase in Brown; stoneware vase; brass vase, all Nordic Nest

What the experts say...

■ **'The problem with all-neutral palettes is that they can feel a little dull,'** says Amber Green. 'Avoiding that comes down to balance. So, if you're not contrasting with a vibrant colour, play with light and shade instead.'

■ **'Ochre, burnt orange and deep olive accents give rooms life and interest, though,'** says Judy Smith, 'without being overpowering.' Jane Rockett adds, 'I'd mix them with sandy yellows, nudes and dusky pinks.'

■ **'Texture is crucial with these colours,'** says Judy. 'The soft touch of velvets and wool is the perfect partner to warm colours. Materials such as dark wood and exposed brickwork also enhance warmer hues.' Amber agrees. 'They're a great base on which to make a statement with texture, because the palette won't compete.'

■ **'They're perfect for north-facing rooms,'** says Lucy St George. 'The warm undertones of earthy neutrals counteract the colder, blue light to create a warm and welcoming room that feels cosy and calming to be in.'

■ **'Yes, these colours did show up in every house in the Seventies!'** says Jane Rockett. 'But the vibrant browns and oranges have been replaced with softer shades that are easier to use. They have their roots in nature, so they have earned their timeless appeal.'

| COLOUR EDIT |

Caramel

OUR COLOUR EXPERTS PRESENT THIS RICH AND LUMINOUS NEUTRAL SHADE

Walls in Caramel Kisses classic interior matt emulsion, Valspar at B&Q

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'Nothing says warm and inviting like caramel. It's a versatile colour that bathes rooms in luxurious warmth. It works perfectly in living rooms to create a Scandinavian-inspired look. For a classic combination, pair it with a soft, creamy off-white.'

HELEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'Caramel hues are a brilliant choice where you want to inject warmth, such as in north-facing spaces that feel a little cold from lack of sunlight. Combine with tonal neutrals with yellow base or add impact and energy with a wall in earthy red.'

RUTH MOTTERSHEAD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

'Made with yellow ochre, burnt and raw umber, and a touch of red, caramel is a luminous tone ideal for living areas and hallways because it radiates light without being too yellow or bright.'

FRANCESCA WEZEL, FOUNDER, FRANCESCA'S PAINTS

'As a neutral with a bit more character, caramel is incredibly useful as it will co-ordinate with pretty much every colour, in both a light or a dark shade.'

EDWARD BULMER, FOUNDER, EDWARD BULMER NATURAL PAINT

'Caramel is melt-in-the-mouth and irresistible, a colour we can trust to work alongside all other shades. We see it naturally in wood, stone, fleece and leather – the raw ingredients of our homes.'

MARIANNE SHILLINGFORD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, DULUX

'Similar to neutral nude or beige but slightly richer, caramel looks especially good with off-white, grey, orange, brown and blush pink. Try it with black accents, on coffee tables or picture frames.'

SARAH LLOYD, INTERIORS AND PAINT EXPERT, VALSPAR

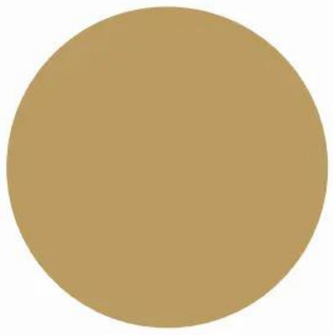


Millionaire lustrous metallic emulsion, Crafted by Crown

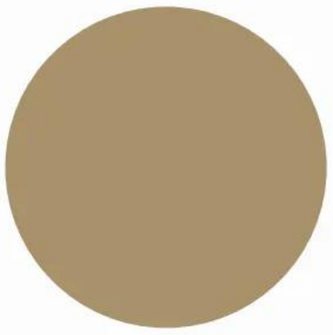
> "Caramel is a **BRILLIANT** mid-weight colour, adding **WARMTH** to any **SPACE** and any surface"

PATRICK O'DONNELL, BRAND AMBASSADOR, FARROW & BALL

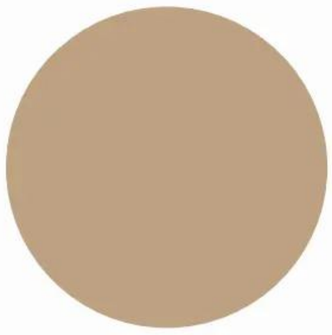
the edit CARAMEL



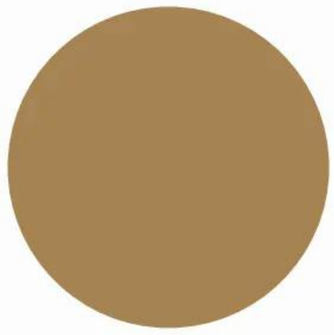
BEST FOR NORTH-FACING ROOMS
Bassoon absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene



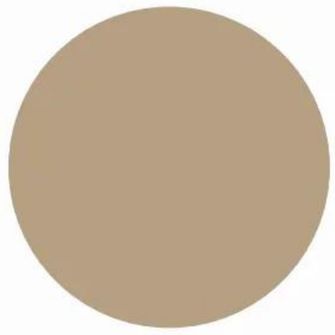
BEST FOR BEDROOMS
Tyler Taupe interior matt, Benjamin Moore



BEST FOR CREATING CALM
Cinnamon matt emulsion, Edward Bulmer



BEST FOR ADDING A TOUCH OF DRAMA
Sand estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball



BEST FOR PAIRING WITH PASTELS
Caramel Cream mixing matt, Dulux

Rich Chocolate

WHEN NEUTRALS AREN'T CUTTING IT, UP YOUR LUXE LEVELS WITH THIS INDULGENT SHADE

CREATE A WARM WELCOME Rich, warm and decadent, shades of brown ooze luxury and class – from dark chocolate and cocoa, warm coffee and chestnut, to milkier truffle and cappuccino. Warm tones will cosy up chilly rooms, or in sunnier south-facing spaces, choose grey or blue-toned browns.

MIX IN MILKY WHITE Though dark, chocolate brown makes a surprisingly soothing background that's restful in bedrooms and welcoming in living rooms and hallways. Temper it with areas of matt white and cream on woodwork, shutters and panelling to relax its intensity.

BRING SOME SHIMMER Warm metallics make the perfect foil for chocolate on mirrors, frames and fittings. Work in plenty of low-level lighting in darker schemes.

KEEP IT SIMPLE BUT SUMPTUOUS Don't overdo it with too much ornate detail, let rich colours and textures speak for themselves. Go for plush velvet and chenille on upholstery, curtains and soft furnishings.

Try it... in a bedroom

Dark chocolate and chestnut make a decadent combination that oozes hotel chic. With its rich, coppery tones, chestnut is ideal for a bedroom, together with dark velvety chocolate upholstery and bedding.

Try it... in a kitchen

Used in key areas, like the inside an alcove, chocolate looks stunning. Whites and creams or soft rose will pop against it, so showcase a collection of or ceramics by displaying it against a choc backdrop.





“Complement chocolate with cream – the contrasting creamy accents on paintwork, panelling and bedding cut through the darker tones to give this bedroom lightness and lift”

Get the look



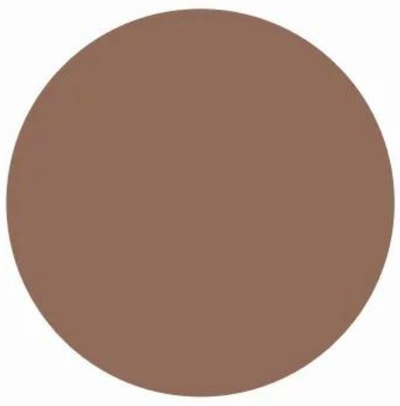
Add luxe with sumptuous textures in dark, chocolatey tones.
Arboretum fabric in Bark, Iliv

+



Metallic finishes will add shimmer and shine.
Atelier Geo Bronze wallpaper, Graham & Brown

+



Go for mellow coffee or chocolate on walls and woodwork.
Hot Chocolate matt emulsion, Benjamin Moore

ADD AN ACCENT
ROSE PINK



Softest rose pink will give dark colours a gentle lift.
Pink table lamp, George Home

Charlie headboard in Isla Grouse; Carter side table; Castleford lamp with Lucile shade; Fleming round gilt mirror, all Neptune



Similar Evelyn **chest of drawers**, Graham and Green. Similar **wallpaper**, Raw Silk in Pearl, Zoffany at Wallpaperdirect

Truffle & chocolate

SWAP PLAIN NEUTRALS FOR A DELECTABLE DUO BRIMMING WITH UNDERSTATED LUXURY

ALLOW YOURSELF TO INDULGE Synonymous with wealth and indulgence, shades of truffle reflect the qualities of their edible namesake. This grounded colour blends pale pinks with greys to create an elegant neutral that's certain to lend sophistication to a scheme. It's also versatile, pairing beautifully with a variety of bolder colours.

CREATE EVERYDAY LUXURY Rich, chocolatey tones never fail to evoke a feeling of bliss and comfort – they're like a treat for interior spaces. Reflect this sense of indulgent excess by painting walls and woodwork in a matching shade for a contemporary scheme that's chic and luxurious.

USE DARK SHADES SPARINGLY Too much chocolate brown on walls can overwhelm, so if you're less brave use it as an accent colour. Temper its richness with paint or a beautiful textured wallpaper in a soft, truffle shade. Tactile fabrics such as leather and velvet up the luxe levels.

INTRODUCE COMPLEMENTARY SHADES Mix with nature-inspired tones: rich roasted coffee and hints of deep burgundy work well for a cosseting autumnal feel, while moss green lends a grounded element. Hints of black bring a modern edge.

'Try it... in a dressing room

Creamy truffle and milk chocolate make a smart combination for a hotel chic vibe. Truffle is soft enough to use on all four walls, but mix painted areas with a textural paper to stop it looking dull. Hints of purple accessories give truffle a gentle boost.

'Try it... in a hallway

This stylish duo provides a warming welcome and will make your home feel like a sanctuary each time you come through the door. Paint skirtings, walls and door surrounds in the same shade for a cohesive look, and to make the space feel bigger.

Crafted by Crown Suede Textured matt **emulsion** in Chocolate, Homebase

“Warm neutrals envelop and comfort. They look their best within a palette of natural tones such as other earthy shades and soft grey greens”

Get the look



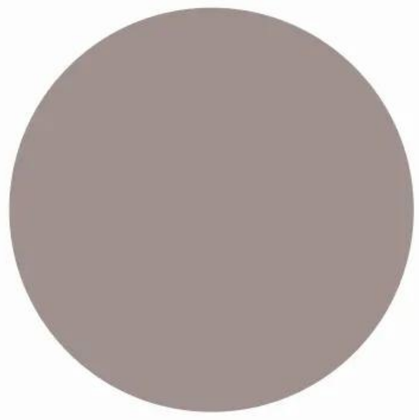
Pick a neutral design featuring a subtle pattern. Nui wallpaper in Nickel, Villa Nova

+



Indulge in delectable chocolatey shades. Boho velvet fabric in Bronze, Sanderson

+



Choose a warm colour. Crafted by Crown Luxurious Flat Matt emulsion in Potted History, Wickes

ADD AN ACCENT
STONEWARE



Choose ceramics with an artisanal quality. Stoneware jug, Sunday Living



Walls in Egerton Place No. 297 marble matt emulsion, Mylands

Clay & latte

FOR MUTED TONES THAT ARE EASY TO LIVE WITH, PAIR THESE WARM NEUTRALS TO ACHIEVE CHIC AND SOPHISTICATED STYLE

CHOOSE YOUR DEPTH Whether you're using clay or latte as the dominant colour in your space, the most important thing to get right is the depth of tone. There are myriad brown, grey and putty shades on the market, but the key to achieving this look is selecting the softest, warmest variations. Look for light browns with undertones of pink for the most elegant and liveable colour.

TRY TONE ON TONE For a cohesive and finished scheme add in layers of deeper and lighter browns and tans. For a contemporary feel, work your way right through the spectrum from whites to blacks. Always look at the undertone – you don't want to throw in a blue-based white, for example. Make sure the colours retain a cohesive thread by following pinky-brown undertones.

LIGHTEN UP One of the challenges of this colour combination is keeping things light and bright. Use the scheme in spaces with plenty of natural light. South-facing rooms work especially well as the golden light adds a welcoming warmth. You can still make these colours look good in spaces with colder, northern light – it just requires a little careful thought. Add in warm lighting, chunky textures and natural woods to pick up the warm brown and grey shades.

'Try it... in a bedroom

Architectural features, like marble fireplaces, are the perfect place to work your scheme around. Pick out tones from the natural stone to create cohesion. Cream fabric shades on your bedside table will make the look just as delightful when the sun goes down.

'Try it... in a living room

Without natural materials in a neutral room, the space can feel cold and unwelcoming. Cottons, hessians and linens will add texture without distracting from the scheme. Curved furniture adds subtle interest.



> “Tonal pops of cream and beige freshen neutral schemes and can add warmth if you pick them out in textiles”

Amara **floor lamp**, Next, is similar. For similar **curtains**, try Hessian in Natural, Dunelm

Get the look



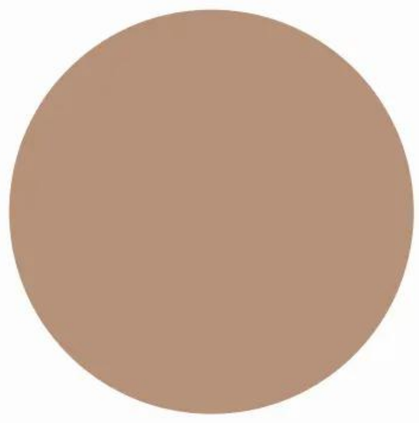
A forest-inspired print adds subtle nature vibes. Dotwork Forest wallpaper in Dotty Brown, Bobbi Beck

+



Try using an outdoor-safe fabric in your garden. Inside & Out in Sand Dune, George Spencer

+



This fawn shade is the perfect soft brown. Muddy Boots lifestyle paint, Earthborn

ADD AN ACCENT
CREAM



Continue the calming scheme with this cosy blanket. Tufted throw, Walton & Co

Walls painted in Mushroom intelligent matt emulsion, Little Greene

| COLOUR EDIT |

Sand

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS PRESENT THIS DELCIOUS SHADE AND HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

What the experts say...

Colour consultants share their views

'Sand is a crucial element of any beach scene, so that's an ideal starting point when looking for accent colours. From calm and serene hues to storm shades, blues and teals will add contrast,'
NELLY HALL, BRAND DIRECTOR, M&L PAINTS

'It's wise to avoid sand colours with a yellow undertone in north-facing rooms as these can appear green in the winter,'
PAULA TAYLOR, COLOUR AND TRENDS SPECIALIST, GRAHAM & BROWN

'Use a soft sand hue to calm bold patterns. White and sand is a classic colour combination, transforming a room into an airy, welcoming space where the effect is polished, yet casual,'
DOMINIC MYLAND, CEO, MYLANDS

'An interiors trend gathering momentum right now is painted ceilings and sandy colours are the perfect palette to experiment with. The neutral hue won't overpower the other elements of the room but has enough impact to draw the eyes up,'
PAULA TAYLOR, COLOUR AND TRENDS SPECIALIST, GRAHAM & BROWN

'Sand tones on all four walls will create impact, especially if they're contrasted with woodwork in a light tone. Alternatively, embrace uplifting sand on all elements for a striking, yet soothing, effect,'
DAVID MOTTERSHEAD, MANAGING DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

'All tones of sand combine brilliantly with all sorts of woods, from bleached and rough-hewn to dark and polished. Being a colour of nature, it lends itself to the natural and the handmade,'
JUDY SMITH, COLOUR CONSULTANT, CROWN

'We recommend pairing sandy paint colours with raw materials, textured wallcoverings, luxurious fabrics and a Berber-style rug. The interior styling needs to be relaxed, with a touch of glamour.'
CATHRYN HELSBY, MARKETING MANAGER AND COLOUR EXPERT, EARTHBORN



Wall painted in Brave Ground, Paper Chain, Pressed Putty, Woven Nest mixing matt, all Dulux

> "The **RIGHT** tone of sand in a dark room will bring a warm dose of **SUNSHINE** to a space that otherwise lacks it"
>
> **NICKY PHILLIPS,** INTERIOR STYLIST & DESIGNER

the edit WARM SANDS

BEST FOR ADDING A TOUCH OF CALM
Old Ochre chalk paint, Annie Sloan

BEST FOR PAIRING WITH OFF-WHITES
Sand interior chalky matt, M&L Paints

BEST WITH MID-TONE FLOORING
Smock flat matt emulsion, Crown



BEST TO PAIR WITH RED UNDERTONES
Cocoa Sand, Benjamin Moore



BEST FOR ALL FOUR WALLS
Crocky Road clay paint, Earthborn

Timeless neutrals

KNOW YOUR NEUTRALS TO CREATE AN SCHEME THAT IS ANYTHING BUT BLAND

STAY NEUTRAL Calm, soothing and easy-on-the-eye, neutrals work with just about anything so are a go-to choice when it comes to interior design. Keeping to shades that are similar in tone is a good starting point for a neutral scheme, then just addin some lighter and darker tones for depth.

LAYER FOR CONTRAST While pretty much a safe option, neutrals can merge into one and look flat if there's not enough contrast. Remedy this by layering in lots of different textures and natural finishes. Go for warm woods like wenge, zebrano and teak, teamed with rattan, cane and bamboo for more of an eclectic vibe.

TURN UP THE HEAT Create a cosier mood in neutral living rooms and bedrooms by introducing spicier accent colours. Go for earthy sun-baked tones, from dark sand and ochre to burnt orange, tan and terracotta.

TRY A PATTERN MASH-UP A few lively patterns on textiles and wall art will give plainer neutrals a much-needed lift.

Try it... in a living room

Start with a calm, quiet background and build from there. Cool walls, simple drapes and a pale floor create a neutral backdrop here, while shapely upholstery, showcase shelving and rustic textures give this scheme 'wow'.

Try it... in a bedroom

Go for an 'out of Africa' vibe and create a cool, calm scheme. Off-white walls and washed wooden floors create a neutral base, teamed with sand and sun-baked tones on bedding plus accents of bamboo.



Kenley ottoman bed, Furniture Choice

“Work in natural elements and woven textures as an accent in a neutral scheme – think tactile seagrass mats, shapely bamboo furniture and rattan lampshades”

THE PERFECT MATCH

Ideal Home recommends French Grey intelligent matt emulsion, Little Greene



Rug; cushion covers; storage basket; cream blanket; black floor lamp, all H&M Home

Get the look



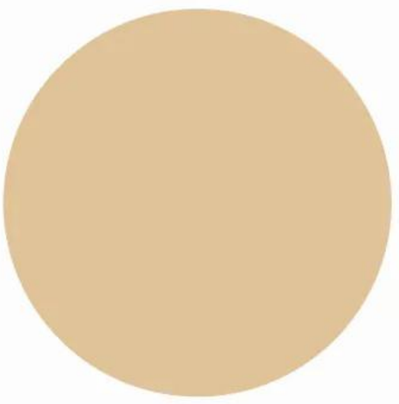
Try a quirky print on cushions or curtains.
Wild & Free fabric, Vanessa Arbuthnott

+



This animal-print design is chic but subtle.
Savannah wallpaper in Neutral, Wallpaper Direct

+



Warm up the mood with soft, sandy tones.
Egyptian Sand Breatheasy coloured emulsion, Crown

ADD AN ACCENT
LUSH GREEN



Plants and greenery will pop against neutrals.
Loft faux floral in house, Sainsbury’s Home

| COLOUR EDIT |

Linen

OUR COLOUR EXPERTS PRESENT THIS OFF-WHITE SHADE AND SHARE HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME



Wall in Limestone No.55 marble matt emulsion; cabinetry in Egyptian Grey No.154 wood and metal eggshell, both Mylands

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'A warm off-white like linen creates an inviting glow, especially in natural light. It's a great base for swapping decorative details as your taste (or the seasons) shift. Layer with natural leather, wood and stone for a modern, rustic feel.'

HELEN SHAW, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING, BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'The best way to identify if an off-white is warm or cool is to contrast it with pure brilliant white. Test the colour in the space you're intending to use it in and monitor how it looks throughout the day, as different lights will emphasise different tones.'

ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN PAINT

'Warm off-whites with hints of yellow and green work best in dark, north-facing rooms, introducing warmth to a space that has little natural sunlight.'

DOMINIC MYLAND, CEO, MYLANDS

'Linen works especially well in kitchens, offering a harmonious balance against darker features. Keep things bright and breezy with crockery and greenery on open shelves for an inspiring and energetic place to cook, entertain and socialise.'

SARAH LLOYD, SENIOR BRAND MANAGER, VALSPAR

'Many people make the mistake of using brilliant white but this can be harsh, bright and often sterile. Off-whites are easier on the eye and more complementary within a design scheme.'

RUTH MOTTERSHEAD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

'Linen is a much-loved classic white for good reason. It is probably one of the most delicate blush whites, reminiscent of almond blossom in spring, providing a subtle organic warmth. It also teams perfectly with pale pinks and soft greens.'

MARIANNE SHILLINGFORD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, DULUX



Quill matt emulsion, Valspar

> "Due to its light-promoting qualities, a soft **NEUTRAL** in a **BATHROOM** creates a sense of wellbeing and **SERENITY**"
>
> **SARAH LLOYD**, SENIOR BRAND MANAGER, VALSPAR

the edit LINEN

BEST FOR WOODWORK
Linen Wash eggshell, Little Greene

BEST FOR WHITEWASHING
Old White chalk paint, Annie Sloan

BEST FOR CREATING WARMTH
Linen Sand, Benjamin Moore

BEST TO PAIR WITH GREY
Shell emulsion, Neptune

BEST FOR PINK UNDERTONES
Linen White velvet matt, Dulux Heritage

Taupe & white

GO FOR A MORE UNDERSTATED STYLE WITH THIS TIMELESS COLOUR COMBINATION

WORK OUT WHERE TO USE IT Not quite a brown, but not a grey, either, taupe falls somewhere in between the two. Go for warmer taupes in rooms where you want to create cosiness, and cooler taupes where you need a calm feel, such as a bedroom or a small bathroom.

WORK YOUR WALLS To give a room added depth, try a wallpaper with a tone-on-tone pattern. Keep skirting boards and paintwork white to lift taupe's ashy tones and create a softer, more feminine vibe.

PILE ON THE TEXTURE To avoid colours merging into one and looking bland, layer on the texture with lots of tactile finishes and weaves with plush damasks and chenilles on curtains and upholstery.

BRING IN SOME BLING Invest in good-quality lighting to highlight different textures, sheens and finishes. Lamps, lanterns and votives in glass, burnished metals and shimmering mercury silver all add shine.

Try it... in a living room

Update a classic country scheme with a smart paisley-print wallpaper. Choose cushions and upholstery in opulent weaves, soft linens and plush damasks, with Moroccan-style metal tables to add glamour.

Try it... in a bathroom

Use even amounts of taupe and white to create a balanced look, taking in the floor, woodwork and ceiling colour. If the room is small, add height by painting the area above a picture rail to match the ceiling.



Sanderson Owlswick active emulsion, Designer Paint



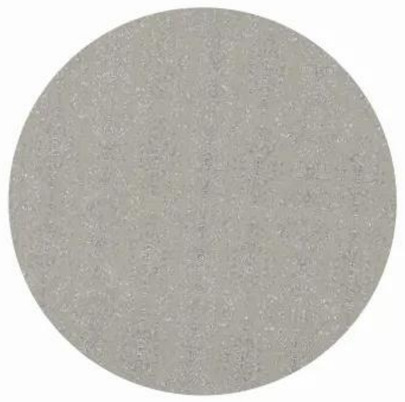
THE PERFECT MATCH

Ideal Home recommends Baker Lifestyle Kinward wallpaper, Wallpaper Direct

“Be extravagant with finishing touches for an opulent look – double up on fabrics so curtains feel fuller”

Similar, Iggy sofa, from sofa.com. Billy bookcase in beige, Ikea. Hammered brass stool, India May

Get the look



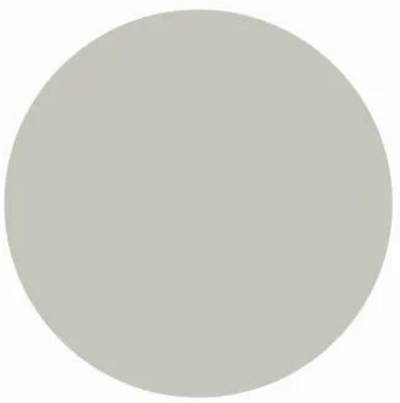
Work in a weave on curtains or blinds.
Java Stone fabric, Harlequin

+



Try a patchwork of patterns in a bathroom.
Batik beige tile, Topps Tiles

+



Stay neutral for soft all-over colour.
Mono absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

ADD AN ACCENT
SILVER



Bring in some extra shimmer on surfaces.
Akila coffee table, Sweetpea & Willow

Lower wall painted in Oxford Navy; chairs in Barcelona Orange, both chalk paint, Annie Sloan

| COLOUR EDIT |

Accent shades

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS SHARE THEIR VIEWS ON USING PAINT TO HIGHLIGHT OR ZONE AREAS FOR A BEAUTIFUL HOME

'What the experts say...

Colour consultants share their views

'Grey is a versatile colour and very easy to live with. 'In order to change the pace, use additional shades of grey to highlight features. For instance, if you have fitted bookshelves you can paint the walls behind them in a darker tone to emphasise this area of the room.'
HELEN SHAW, MARKEING DIRECTOR, BENJAMIN MOORE UK

'A painted ceiling is a fabulous way to introduce an accent colour. Choose a pale tea-rose pink to bring a blush-tinted hue to the light in the room – a design trick used since the 18th century – then paint the walls a modern pure white to emphasise the pink and make the space feel airy.'
ANNIE SLOAN, FOUNDER, ANNIE SLOAN PAINT

'Orange can look really smart when used with a deep blue-purple and blue-green. This colour combination works well in a dining room: think dark, inky walls and vibrant orange woodwork.'
CLARE TILBROOK, JOINT FOUNDER, FENWICK & TILBROOK

'We've been particularly drawn to maroon as an accent shade. It works especially well with taupe and beige for a cosy room. If you are considering painting a horizontal colour-blocking effect, place the red at the bottom and a sandy-beige up top.'
JODY HUDSON, STYLIST, GRAHAM & BROWN

'Team graphite woodwork with pure white walls – the darker shade will make the walls seem lighter and brighter, creating a feeling of space.'
TASH BRADY, COLOUR SPECIALIST, LICK PAINTS

'Shades such as bright yellows and rich emerald greens are some of my favourites for upcycling furniture and will complement the popular navy blue and grey neutrals that we're seeing in many homes. Meanwhile, ochre is a versatile accent colour that you can use in any neutral space. Use it in spaces without windows or sufficient light.'
SUE KIM, SENIOR COLOUR DESIGNER, VALSPAR

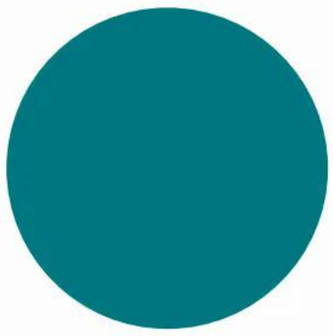
Wall section painted in Golden Sands simply refresh feature wall matt emulsion, Dulux



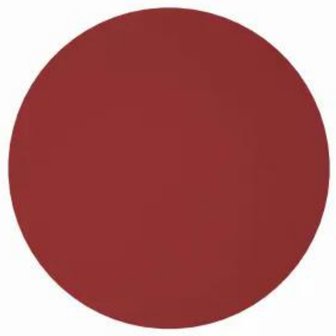
"'Teal is a perfect **ACCENT** for the inside of an open cupboard filled with white **CROCKERY**, as it creates a **GALLERY-STYLE** backdrop"

COLIN ROBY-WELFORD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, FIRED EARTH

the edit ENGAGING ACCENTS



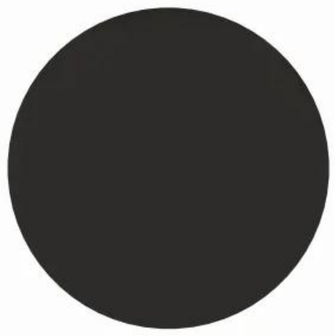
BEST FOR FRAMING A COLLECTION
Hummingbird matt emulsion, Fired Earth



BEST AGAINST NEUTRALS
Sanguine resistance ultra matt emulsion, Graham & Brown



BEST FOR A WARM COLOUR SHOT
Mustard Jar matt emulsion, Crown



BEST TEAMED WITH WHITE
Black Beauty aura matte, Benjamin Moore



BEST FOR A BOLD, DRAMATIC CHOICE
Napoleonic Blue wall paint, Annie Sloan

Go for an immersive effect by painting skirting boards in black, too. Walls in Raven's Flight, velvet matt, Dulux Heritage

| COLOUR EDIT |

Black

OUR COLOUR EXPERTS PRESENT THIS THEATRICAL SHADE AND SHARE IDEAS ON HOW TO USE IT CREATIVELY IN YOUR HOME

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'If you're brave enough to paint your walls and woodwork black, something magical happens. The delicious contrast between lighter objects against a dark background emphasises unique qualities and finer details you might have missed in a light-filled space.'
MARIANNE SHILLINGFORD,
CREATIVE DIRECTOR, DULUX

'Black works well with strong, jewel colours – orange, fuchsia, turquoise, lime – but it doesn't always need to be paired with standout shades. It's equally wonderful with soft neutrals, blush pinks and sage greens.'
HELEN HARLOW, INTERIOR DESIGNER, PAINTBOX

'When teamed with white, black can be used anywhere. However, it's crucial to choose the right shades. For a soft monochrome, combine off-white and charcoal, or for a striking effect, use a clean white and strong black.'
NICKY PHILLIPS, INTERIOR STYLIST & DESIGNER

'Black is intimate, romantic and protective in a bedroom – so in this environment, paint all the walls in a rich shade of grey-black or blue-black. Then balance it with a white ceiling and woodwork.'
CLAIRE PASCOE, PASCOE INTERIORS

'North-facing rooms can be notoriously difficult to decorate as they're often darker spaces with a cool light. This is where black comes into its own. Instead of competing with the limited light, bring in dark paint colours, such as black, to create a cocooning feel.'
CATHRYN HELSBY, COLOUR EXPERT, EARTHBORN

'Embrace black woodwork in hallways where you can use the colour to pick out and enhance skirting architraves, dado rails and panelling. In a living space, paint a wall black as a dramatic backdrop for artwork.'
CLAIRE PASCOE, PASCOE INTERIORS

'A bathroom or cloakroom may be the perfect place to start out with black, as the mirrors that are inevitably in there will pop against it. Black also provides the perfect foil for metallic accents, such as brass or copper.'
ALISON TEVERINI, INTERIOR DESIGNER,
MILWARD TEVERINI



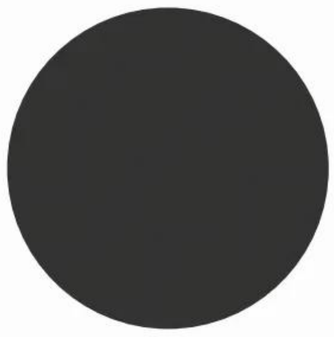
Similar paint colour, Ilex pure flat emulsion, Paint & Paper Library. Rosalie bed, Sofa.com

> "It's sometimes hard to see **SUBTLE** variations on small **SWATCHES**, so make sure you use a larger **SAMPLE**"
>
> **HELEN HARLOW**, INTERIOR DESIGNER, PAINTBOX

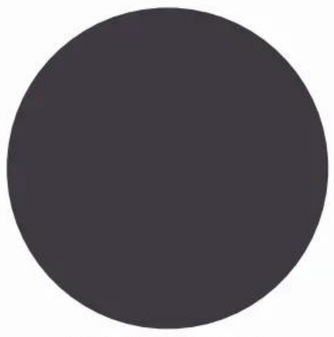
the edit DRAMATIC BLACK



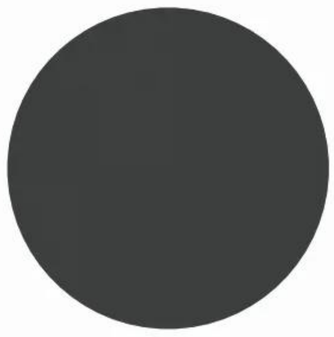
BEST FOR A SOFT BACKDROP
Graphite wall paint, Annie Sloan



BEST PAIRED WITH MUTED SHADES
Liberty Good Home durable matt emulsion, B&Q



BEST FOR A COSY INTERIOR
Paean Black estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball



BEST FOR RICH TEAL UNDERTONES
Midnight Regal Select flat, Benjamin Moore



BEST FOR PITCH BLACK
Jack Black absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

Black & white

BRING PUNCH TO YOUR ROOMS WITH A STRIKING MONOCHROME SCHEME

STICK TO ONE STYLE The most dramatic of colour pairings, black and white is always striking. Monochrome schemes work best with one strong theme rather than a mix of styles, whether it's a rustic Scandi-inspired look or a classic period piece in super smart black and white.

DON'T OVERDO IT Too much black can be overpowering, so start with white or ivory as your base, introducing black gradually. White walls make a perfect backdrop for black frames, monochrome artwork or black-and-white photography.

TRY A PATTERN MASH-UP When it comes to pattern, you can go big, small or use a mix of both – from bold, oversized ikats and damasks, to small-scale pinstripes, chevrons or hounds-tooth checks for a smarter, more tailored look.

WORK IN WARM WOODS Bring balance to a monochrome scheme by adding warm wood tones in furniture and flooring. Try light, ashy woods for calm Scandi style or darker rosewoods and teaks for depth and warmth.

Try it... in a bedroom

For an eclectic boho look, use an oversized ikat print as a starting point, layering the bed with linen and cushions in a mix of prints and weaves, large or small. Paint a broad band of black just below your ceiling height to introduce a sense of balance to the scheme.

Try it... in a kitchen

Go half and half with smart black-and-white tiled walls in a kitchen. Having a paler colour at the top and a darker one at the bottom is a way of making a small room appear loftier.



Oparo Arabesque tiles in Onyx and Diamond, Topps Tiles



THE PERFECT MATCH

Ideal Home recommends Loft White absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

Panthera Ikat duvet cover and pillowcase set; Ikat Jodhpur quilt; Ikat Nomads cushions, all Bohzaar

“Work in natural elements and textures as an accent – from weathered panelling to wooden beadwork”

Get the look



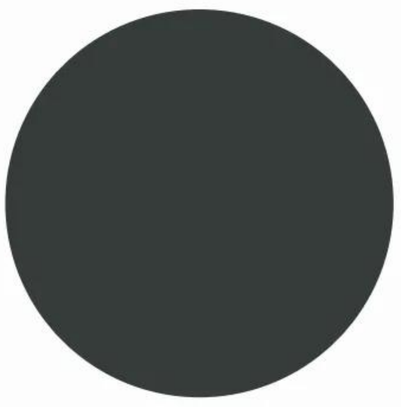
Try an ethnic ikat on cushions and curtains.
Wabi Sabi Takumi fabric, Scion

+



Blur the design lines with a subtle stripe.
Organic Textures wallpaper, Galerie

+



Use a bold black in accent alcoves.
New Black pure flat emulsion, Paint & Paper Library

ADD AN ACCENT GREEN



Bring in greenery and plants for a flash of naturalistic colour.
Potted artificial fern, Gisela Graham

| COLOUR EDIT |

Dark grey

OUR COLOUR CONSULTANTS GIVE THEIR VIEWS ON THIS TREND-LED NEUTRAL AND HOW TO USE IT SUCCESSFULLY IN YOUR HOME

For a similar paint colour, try Hopper Head estate emulsion, Farrow & Ball

What the experts say...

Designers and stylists share their views

'Darker tones of charcoal can be used to add drama anywhere in the home, from a living room to a bedroom or even a small hallway. With clever lighting and mirrors you can create a look that's both strong and atmospheric. These dark greys are also the perfect strong background for small amounts of brighter colour, like chartreuse or mint.'
JUSTYNA KORCZYNSKA, SENIOR DESIGNER AT CROWN

'Grey is often considered to be a safe choice for interiors; however, we should never feel that using neutrals or greys is unadventurous. In fact, working with the architectural "families" and their subtle colour variations can actually create a highly sophisticated scheme. Use softer greys in combination with deep, darker greys to provide a contrast and design interest.'
ANDY GREENALL, HEAD OF DESIGN, PAINT & PAPER LIBRARY

'When choosing a grey, consider its base tone carefully. Different pigments in greys will affect the overall undertones and how the colours sit together in the scheme.'
RUTH MOTTERSHEAD, CREATIVE DIRECTOR, LITTLE GREENE

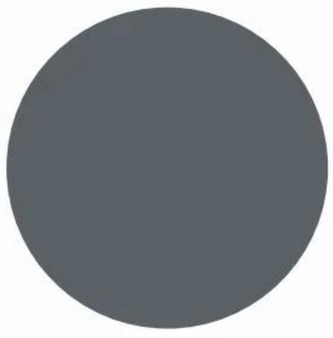
'Charcoal greys are great for windows and doors to give a Crittal-style aesthetic. They also work well in maximalist schemes, where I would paint the ceiling, walls and woodwork all the same colour to make a dramatic backdrop for artwork, clashing prints and bright colour pops.'
AARON MARKWELL, COLOUR CURATOR & PAINT COLOUR EXPERT, COAT PAINTS

'Dark grey also has the ability to put a contemporary spin on even the most traditional-style space or furniture. Grey cupboards work surprisingly well with soft muted pastels and deliver a calmer take on this dramatic trend.'
KATHRYN LLOYD, COLOUR SPECIALIST, CROWN

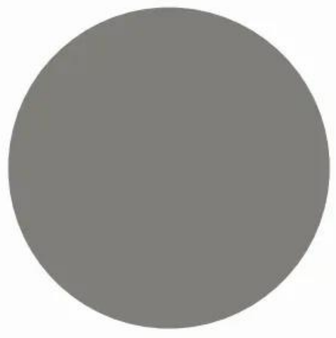


> "'Dark greys are the perfect **SUBSTITUTE** for blacks to create a **MONOCHROMATIC SCHEME** with depth and **WARMTH**"
>
> **JESSICA PLATEO**, CRAIG & ROSE

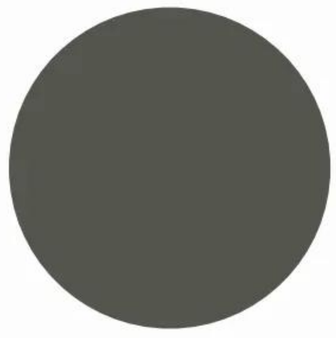
the edit DARK GREY



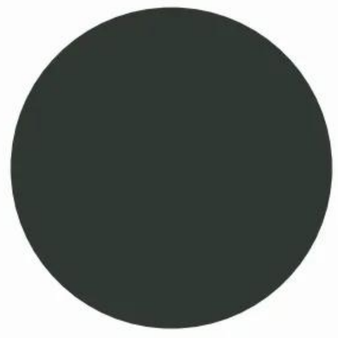
BEST FOR SMART-KITCHENS
Thunderstorm 0514 eggshell, Colourtrend



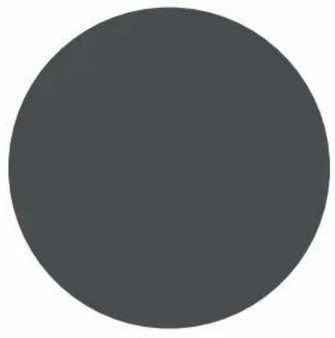
BEST FOR COLOUR DRENCHING
Crafted by Crown Calligraphy flat matt, Crown



BEST FOR WOODWORK
Pompeian Ash absolute matt, Little Greene



BEST TO TEAM WITH LIGHTER TONES
New Black pure flat, Paint & Paper Library



BEST FOR COSY BEDROOMS
V&Co by Valspar Grey Shade 5, B&Q

Grey & ivory

TEAM WARM GREY WITH SOFTEST IVORY TO CREATE AN EFFORTLESSLY ELEGANT LOOK

KNOW WHERE TO USE THEM Dark rooms need warming up – yellow-toned greys will create a cosy, enveloping feel, that's ideal for living rooms and bedrooms. Break up expanses of grey with highlights of soft ivory or a warm-toned white on your ceiling, woodwork and floors.

PLAY WITH PATTERN Grey needs pattern to bring it to life. Mix formal stripes and toiles on a background of ivory for a smart, tailored look or go more eclectic with relaxed weaves, herringbones, soft geometrics and Berbers.

TURN UP THE HEAT A small amount of accent colour will add a visual pop to this subtle palette. Flashes of mustard, olive green or softer tones of nude or blush work well with any yellow-toned greys.

STYLE YOUR WINDOWS Avoid anything too frilly or flouncy when it comes to window treatments. Your best bet is to choose tailored Roman blinds that showcase a smart print or pattern, or opt for simple floor-length panels in a textured linen.

Try it... in a living room

Make a living room more inviting with a warm grey wall colour that mixes well with other neutrals. Add cushions and throws in complementary shades with a Berber rug as your anchor point.

Try it... in a bedroom

To cosy up a bedroom bring in more accent colour. Use mustard yellow on bedlinen and cushions, so the bed becomes the focal point, with a pair of yellow pendants hung either side of the bed to nicely frame it.



Bedspread in French Ticking Saffron Scree fabric; blind in By The Sea Scree Charcoal fabric, Vanessa Arbuthnott



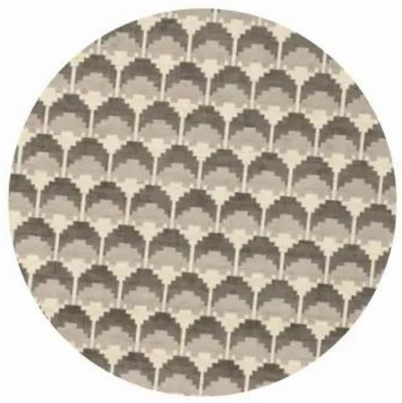
THE PERFECT MATCH

Ideal Home recommends Urbane Grey absolute matt emulsion, Little Greene

“If an all-grey scheme feels too flat and monotone, work in an extra layer of colour with an elegant ivory for a subtle lift”

Paul three-seater sofa in Vole’s Ear; Delia throw; Ximena rug; cushions; Jonet mirror, all Perch & Parrow

Get the look



A subtly patterned fabric will add interest.
Arcade Graphite fabric, Kirkby Design

+



Try striped wallpaper in a mix of tones.
Arthouse Painted Stripe wallpaper in chalk grey, Wallpaper Direct

+

On paintwork, stick with paler shades and tones.
Great White modern emulsion, Farrow & Ball

ADD AN ACCENT
OCHRE



Warm yellows will pop against darker greys.
Mustard quilted bedspread, Sainsbury’s Home





Grey & yellow

TEAMING VERSATILE GREY WITH SOFT YELLOW CREATES A SOOTHING YET UPBEAT FEEL

PICK THE RIGHT SHADE OF GREY Get to know how the light works in your room before you choose a shade. If natural light is limited, then pale greys may look chilly or charcoals too dark. Paint samples on the wall to test how the colour changes throughout the day.

USE PATTERN This colour combo needs pattern to bring it to life. There are plenty of mid-century-style graphic prints around, but also try softer florals and stripes.Try it on a variety of surfaces like wallpaper, rugs and cushions.

DO IT YOUR WAY Mid-century and Scandi fans will feel at home with this colour pairing, as it works well with clean lines and colour-pop accessories. If French-chateau chic is your thing, try with ornate painted furniture or go for natural finishes for a relaxed country feel.

STYLE YOUR WINDOWS Keep window treatments casual and free from fussy trims. Stick to plain block colour on fabrics or avoid pattern completely by choosing traditional shutters in either white or grey.

MIX MATERIALS Add texture by combining your furniture and accessories in different finishes from wood and metal to marble and wicker.

Try it... in a living room

Keep the style chunky for a relaxed finish and team with oversized florals and cheerful accessories in sunshine yellow and marigold. A neutral sofa and flooring, plus painted tongue and groove, ensure the prints won't overpower the look.

Try it... in a bedroom

Sharp geometric prints in grey and primrose create a cool Fifties style that's perfect for a gender-neutral sleeping space. Crisp white accents help to define the graphic lines, while polished teak furniture in leggy mid-century modern designs adds warmth.

THE PERFECT MATCH

Ideal Home recommends Cornforth White Estate Emulsion, Farrow & Ball

Get the look



Great for adding subtle pattern to upholstery
Hugo F0915-01 fabric, Clarke & Clarke

+



Brighten up a dark room
Fabled Floral 002 wallpaper, Blendworth

+

Keep the walls neutral, so you can run wild with pattern elsewhere
Cupboard Love Claypaint, Earthborn

ADD AN ACCENT
MATT BLACK



Pops of black will add definition to the scheme
Butterfly chair, Ercol range, Furniture Village

Walls in Hydrangea Camomile wallpaper, Laura Ashley

How to use the colour wheel

THINK OF THE COLOUR WHEEL AS A MAP – A VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF WHERE COLOURS SIT ON THE SPECTRUM AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THEM ALL



TONAL SCHEME

DIFFERENT SHADES OF ONE COLOUR

A tonal scheme is arguably the simplest of the colour recipes you can use for decorating. It includes only different tones (lighter and darker) of the same colour, so it's a good place to start if you're unsure about contrasting combinations. Using light and dark variations of your chosen colour and varying textures will add an extra dimension to your scheme.

HARMONIOUS SCHEME

COLOURS THAT SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER ON THE WHEEL

Harmonious colours are the most widely used in interior design. The name says it all – choosing adjacent colours is a simple way of creating a harmonious scheme that's easy to live with. The contrasts between colours next to each other on the wheel are subtle – red, red-orange and orange, for example. A typical harmonious scheme is made up of three colours: one dominant colour and two as accents.

CONTRASTING SCHEME

COLOURS THAT SIT DIRECTLY OPPOSITE EACH OTHER ON THE WHEEL

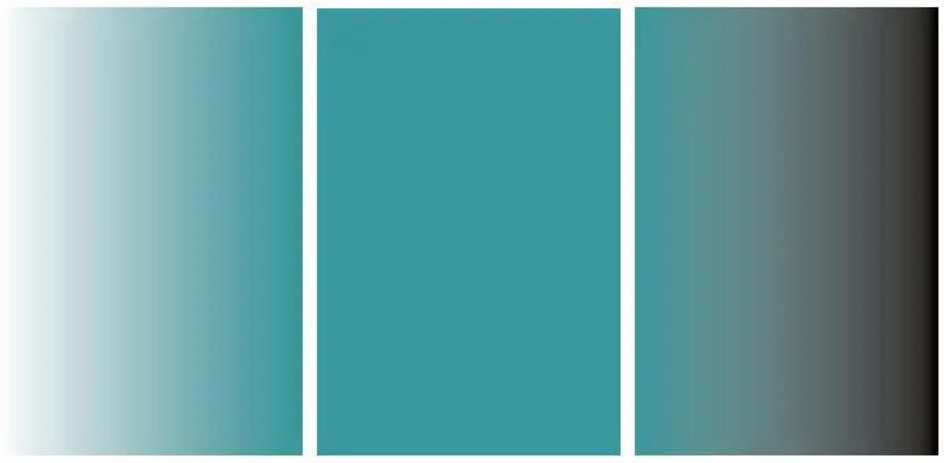
If it's drama you're after, a contrasting colour scheme is the one for you. Examples include red and green, yellow and purple and blue and orange. Use contrasting colours for an eye-catching room with maximum impact – these combinations make colours appear brighter, so are great for a vibrant and bold interior. They're also referred to as complementary colours.

HUE, SHADE AND TINT

These three words are most often used when discussing colour. However, they're most often confused too. Despite being used interchangeably, they mean three different things.

HUE Forming the outer edges of the colour wheel, the primaries, secondaries and tertiaries, a hue is a colour in its purest form. As you can imagine, they're pretty bold, which is why they're usually lightened or darkened for most decorating schemes.

SHADE AND TINT A shade is created by adding black to a colour to darken it, making it deeper and richer, while a tint is created by adding white, making the colour less intense.



TINT HUE + WHITE

HUE PURE COLOUR

SHADE HUE + BLACK

Ideal Home's

COMPLETE GUIDE TO COLOUR

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO INSPIRE YOU



Gen up on the latest shades

Paint experts reveal their top tips and tricks to using on-trend colours in your home



Learn how to use colour best

Discover what colours work best in each room (and what materials to pair them with)



Find new colour combos

From coordinating to contrasting shades, discover the perfect colour pairing for you



Try new decor techniques

We reveal ways to decorate with colour that are guaranteed to elevate your space

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