

Find the right paint colors for your home

Use these simple tips from professional designer Nadia Geller to choose the right paint colors for your home.



Finding the Right Color and Texture

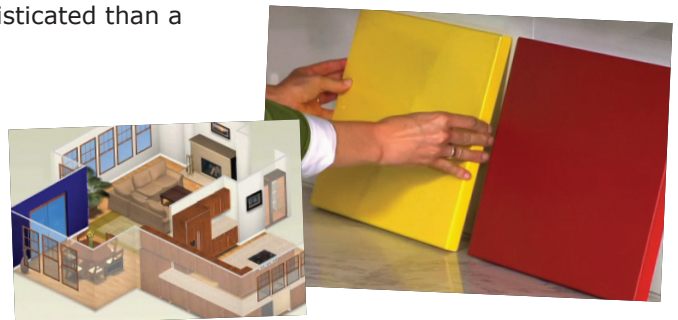
- **Get yourself a fan deck.** Fan decks are books with all the colors available from a certain paint manufacturer. Then, match it up against walls, cabinets, furniture and decor. This can really help identify the main colors in your home that you'll want to match.
- **Think big picture.** Be sure to consider sight line from room to room when painting. You don't want to pick colors that clash. For example, if you want to paint your dining room dark blue, don't paint your adjacent living room lavender.
- **Match to a favorite color.** Most paint companies can color match paint from a favorite object or clothing item, which makes it easy to get the exact shade that you love.

Considering Some Fun Ideas

- **Try a little contrast.** A fun way to make a style difference is to switch up the color of your baseboards, windows and trims. Keep the walls light and paint the trim a darker color like slate grey.
- **Make an accent wall.** Create a focal point by painting one wall a different color. Which wall to highlight? It could be the wall with the television or the wall on which your favorite art is hung. There are no rules.
- **Paint outside the lines.** There are some fun patterns that can be created with paint. Try horizontal stripes. They can add dimension and the illusion that a room is larger or even smaller than it really is. But don't overdo it.

Choosing the Perfect Paint

- **Evaluate many shades of white.** Choose a white that has a cool tone or a warm tone based on the furniture and other materials in your home. Natural wood tones have oranges, reds and yellow tones in them and work best with a warmer white. Blue tile may look best with a white that has a cool tone to it.
- **Get dirty.** When selecting color, consider going for the shade that is a bit 'dirtier.' A light blue with a hint of grey feels more sophisticated than a bright cartoon sky blue.
- **Paint sample boards first.** Put them up in the room and live with them for a few days so you can see how they look in different light.
- **Choose semi-gloss for trim.** Moldings, baseboards, bathrooms and kitchens usually require a semi-gloss finish for easy clean-ups.



Using a home design tool can help you visualize and clarify your design ideas. Autodesk Homestyler is free* online home design software that helps bring your home design ideas to life. Use it to create layouts, experiment with products, colors and finishes, see your ideas in 3D and to save and share ideas with your friends. Click here to visit www.homestyler.com and try it today!