

Hottest new hues

Trending colors to update any room

Every year, interior-design tastemakers spin the color wheel and declare the hot new shades of the moment. Paint companies are quick to follow, showcasing their “it” colors. And before long, you’re yearning for a room redo or two.

A fresh coat of paint is a fast and affordable way to update a space, but picking a shade can be tricky. “Just as clothes don’t work on everyone, your home doesn’t look great in everything,” says Eve Ashcraft, a color consultant and author of “The Right Color” (Artisan Books, 2011). That said, if you’re ready for a change, looking at trendy palettes is a good starting point, she says.

For inspiration, we’ve rounded up five stylish new hues, and tapped Ashcraft and other pros for tips on how to work them into your home. Note: Paint prices vary depending on brand line. Also, we did not test all of the paints listed in our labs. For our top brands, see page 32. Keep in mind that our top-rated paint brands offer color-matching services, so you can have any color chip custom-blended at the store.



A FINE WINE
Valspar Claret looks rich with gold and cream tones.

BEHR
AWNING
RED

BENJAMIN
MOORE
MAPLE
LEAF
RED

Red wine

- Behr Awning Red S-H-180
- Valspar Claret EB28-2
- Benjamin Moore Maple Leaf Red 2084-20

Pantone’s Color of the Year, Marsala, is a robust, earthy hue that creates a lush and sophisticated look. “It has an Old World vibe reminiscent of Parisian apartments,” says Meg Caswell, DIY Network host and season 6 winner of HGTV’s “Design Star.”

Where to use it Small areas where it won’t overwhelm. Think entryways, powder rooms, and reading nooks, Caswell says. Red is thought to stimulate the senses, so if you’re feeling bold, try Marsala in a dining room.

What it goes with White will enliven the shade, and charcoal and black accents dial up the drama. To bring out Marsala’s warm, rustic tones, group it with other rich hues, such as forest green, gold, and mahogany.



PINK DREAMS
Behr Secret Blush
is a soothing hue
for a bedroom.

Pale pink

- Behr Secret Blush T15-7
- PPG Pittsburgh Paints Ballet Slipper 231-2
- Eve Ashcraft Collection for Fine Paints of Europe Nymph

The color that flatters your face can do the same for your home. For rooms, “I like a soft, airy shade of pink that’s more of a feeling than an obvious color,” says Ashcraft. “It’s very embracing.”

Where to use it Not just for nurseries, the barely there pastel can be a very adult choice, even when it’s the

predominant hue in a common area like the living room. “I like pale pink in bathrooms and on ceilings,” says Ashcraft. “And in old houses it can work in just about any room.”

What it goes with Whites and grays are the perfect foil for soft pinks, and they keep the look subtle and low-key. Ashcraft likes to temper the traditionally feminine color with more masculine ones, including brown. Or for a bolder look that’s trending now, partner soft pink with small doses of pastels and neons, such as sour apple, cobalt, or fuchsia.





BEACHY KEEN
Glidden's Caribbean Sea plays well with sandy accents.



Mediterranean blue

- Benjamin Moore Aura Santa Monica Blue 776
- Sherwin-Williams Major Blue SW 6795
- Glidden Duo Caribbean Sea GLB02

This ocean-inspired hue brings a sense of calm and peace to rooms. It makes a big statement, says Caswell, but it can absorb light, making your space feel cozier. "It's like you're being hugged by your room," she adds.

Where to use it Caswell loves it in window-filled living rooms, sunrooms, and even on kitchen cabinets. "Against white countertops and backsplash, blue cabinets in a high-gloss finish will really pop," she says.

What it goes with Bright white creates a striking contrast. "The combo is happy and preppy," Caswell says. For a resortlike feel, team it with sandy tones and a hit of another tropical hue, such as coral, turquoise, or lime.

Burnt orange

- Benjamin Moore Bronze Tone 2166-30
- Valspar Pantone Burnt Orange PN2090
- Valspar Pantone Marmalade PN2080
- Behr Carrot Stick 240B-7

With undertones of red, paprika, or cinnamon, burnt orange evokes a roaring fire and candlelit nights, lending intimacy to any room in your home.

Where to use it For a bold, welcoming statement, try it in an entryway. Or use it to add refinement to libraries, home offices, and densely furnished living and dining rooms. "A big, saturated shade may feel like too much in a sparsely decorated space," Ashcraft says. If you're unsure of the color, she suggests trying it in smaller doses, say, by painting the back of a wall of bookcases.

What it goes with Dark woods and brown- and yellow-based shades including gold and olive combine beautifully with burnt orange. It also holds its own against cool tones—think white, gray, and soft blue. "And paired with a rich magenta and chocolate brown, it has a seductive Bohemian feel," Reid says.



WARMING TREND Behr Carrot Stick picks up the warmth in dark woods.



VEG OUT
Valspar's Chopped Chive teams well with sunny accents in a kitchen.



Olive green

- Benjamin Moore Olive Moss 2147-20
- Valspar Chopped Chive 6006-8B
- Sherwin-Williams Relentless Olive SW 6425

Olive green interiors are back in style. Tweaked with a bit more yellow, the '70s staple looks fresh in traditional and contemporary homes, says Susan Reid, an interior designer in Rehoboth, Mass. "It's warm and organic, which people are relating to right now," she adds.

Where to use it Think of olive as a neutral, using it just as you would any beige or taupe

shade. The relaxing tone of this green makes it ideal as the main or accent shade for living rooms, bedrooms, and kitchens.

What it goes with Olive is found in vegetables, herbs, and leaves, so take your color cues from nature when decorating with it, Reid says. Reaching across the color wheel, complementary shades such as plum and eggplant give it an opulent feel, and olive's yellow base makes it a natural with orange, yellow, and teal shades. It also goes well with cool neutrals; pair it with gray for a chic and modern color combination.

BENJAMIN
MOORE
OLIVE MOSS

SHERWIN-
WILLIAMS
RELENTLESS
OLIVE