THE COLOR HANDBOOK
A Guide to Selecting Color
Using several shades of one hue will unify a space visually. A monochromatic scheme is a good choice in a room that’s broken up by shelving, trim, and doors.

**BOOKCASE:** Lucerne AF-530, ADVANCE® Semi-Gloss

**DOOR:** Soot 2129-20, Aura® Grand Entrance®, Satin

**BACK OF SHELVES:** Exhale AF-515, Regal® Select, Matte

**CHOOSING YOUR COLOR**

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

Thankfully, a few guidelines can ease the process. After all, you want to love the colors you live with.
Nothing clears your head like an all-white room. A soothing palette of white, cream, and off-white creates a calm, airy backdrop and will highlight the play of light across every surface, making the space feel bigger and brighter.

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

PALES
LIGHT AND AIRY COMBINATIONS TO UPLIFT YOU
Ballet pink, dusty lavender, washed out blue—a gentle, pale palette is versatile and easy to live with. If a pale color starts to look too sugary sweet, just tone it down with a little gray.

NEUTRALS
NATURAL COMBINATIONS TO KEEP YOU GROUNDED
Slate, clay, sand, ochre—neutrals go far beyond gray and brown. These colors of the earth are real shape shifters. To combine neutrals, look for its undertone—is it warm or cool—and keep its partner in the same family.

DEEPS
MYSTERIOUS COMBINATIONS TO INTRIGUE YOU
Violet, onyx, sapphire, ruby—these confident colors create instant character and dominate a room. They dissolve boundaries and edges, creating intimacy and the perception of depth.

Looking for a place to start?

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

NEAR WALL: Palladian Blue HC-144, Natura®, Eggshell
ALCOVE: Sag Harbor Gray HC-95, Natura®, Eggshell
TRIM: Swiss Coffee OC-45, Natura®, Semi-Gloss
Many neutrals have a chameleon-like quality, shifting in color slightly with changing light, making them a good choice for kitchens and other rooms used throughout the day.

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


WALLS: Chambourd AF-645, Aura Matte MANTEL: Smoke Gray 2120-40, ADVANCE®, Satin
Color is site-specific. That’s why you should always try out a shade in the space and view it at different times of the day before committing. A pale pink room will look gleaming in the direct sunlight of a south-facing room, and cooler and more muted in indirect northern light.

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

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

A glossy finish lightens up a dark hue, multiplying the flicker and romance of candlelight or the glow of a street lamp outside the window.
In an open-plan home, use different colors to define different spaces and highlight interesting architecture. But always keep the big picture in mind. The simplest way to keep things harmonious, is to combine shades of the same color—or similar tones—from room to room.
Create architectural interest by painting the walls with different shades of one color. Keep the darker hue closer to the bottom for an ombre effect.

WHOEVER SAID TRIM HAD TO BE WHITE OR CREAM?

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

ROOM-DEFINING TRIM

OUR FAVORITE COLOR COMBINATIONS

Coming up with the right color palette can be tough, so we’ve put together some tried-and-true trios that strike a chord. Try the top color on the walls, the middle shade on trim, door or ceiling, and the third hue as an accent in accessories, fabric or on painted furniture.
1. MAIN COLOR: Porcelain 2113-60
   1ST ACCENT COLOR: Filtered Sunlight 2154-60
   2ND ACCENT COLOR: Appalachian Brown 2115-10

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**TEST DRIVE YOUR COLOR**

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

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