

# Paint It Right

## Pick the Perfect Paint



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# Get This Party Started!

*Paint is an easy and affordable way to change or revamp a space. Using the proper paint color and finish can make a huge difference! Paint can be challenging to select because there are literally millions of colors to choose from. Follow the **5** principles outlined below to pick the perfect paint for any project and any space.*

## 1. **WHEN** to pick paint

Once all the elements going into a room or whole house are selected *then* I choose the paint colors.

I have a vivid memory of clients telling me they had hired a “Colorist” to select their paint colors... I thought... oh brother! How can someone pick paint colors not knowing what else is going to happen in this home? Bottom line... Paint is the LAST THING I SELECT!

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## 2. **HOW** to pick paint

When you have decided upon all other elements in your room or house, you are ready to begin paint selections. Gather samples of the items in the chosen space to better guide your paint selection. Sample items may include: artwork, wood stain, flooring, tile, and stonework.

If it applies, you will want to take into consideration: bedding, pillows, window treatment fabric, and perhaps, a beautiful area rug! Lay everything out in the room they are going in and pull out your paint swatches. What are the common colors? What ties everything together? What are your light neutrals? Your rich or colorful accents? Pull those colors from your swatches. Lay out virtually every color you see in your selections.

Ask yourself if you want your room: Light? Mid toned? Dark? Perhaps you want to paint the main walls a soothing neutral and accent the focal point wall with a deeper or bolder color. Is there a color that connects everything? Can you live with that color surrounding you every day? If not, choose a lighter, muddier version of one of your colors. Keep asking yourself if you can live with it. If the answer is yes – that’s your main wall color! YAY!

click [here](#) for the Benjamin Moore color finder

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### 3. painting an **ACCENT WALL**

These days I prefer to go with light colored walls to create a backdrop for my furnishings, window treatments, art and accessories. I NEVER get tired of light colored walls. However, there have been times when I've wanted to switch things up and paint a wall or two in a fun, unexpected color.

If you are looking for some drama or a "wow!" factor in your room, consider painting one wall a different color. The color should be significantly lighter or darker than your main walls.

**selecting the COLOR** You will want to think about what will be on the wall in front of your accent wall... furniture, bedding, an art piece, etc. Is there a pop of color in your art or fabrics that you love but would never be comfortable painting all the walls that color? Well...maybe that's the accent color! How does a sample look? If you love it, that's your answer!

**selecting the WALL** A focal point wall should be the first wall you see ahead of you when walking into a room. If you have a challenging space, where maybe the TV or fireplace is on a wall that doesn't face you at first, then you will want to consider your options. In my living room, for example, I have chosen the wall behind me when I walk in. It's just the best wall to serve as a focal point.

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### 4. selecting a **FINISH**

The finish you choose for painting your home is very important and can make a big difference. The flatter the finish the better in my opinion. As far as texture for the wall itself I prefer a smooth drywall texture or a light hand skip trowel.

**Flat** – walls, ceilings – [hides small imperfections](#)

**Semi-Gloss** – trim – [brings out texture](#)

**Satin** – trim, kitchen or bathroom walls – [protects walls from moisture](#)

**Eggshell** – kitchen or bathroom walls – [protects walls from moisture](#)

**High Gloss** – [looks best in extremely contemporary homes](#)

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## 5. EXTERIOR paint

Selecting exterior paint colors can be challenging because of direct sunlight changing throughout the day. A solution I have found is to go for a drive in nice neighborhoods and find houses I like the color of. I stop, take photos of the home, and sometimes even ring the doorbell to ask what color it is. If no one is there, I color match with my paint fan! You'd be surprised at how friendly most people are and how often they don't mind sharing their paint choices. They are flattered that you like it 😊

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## ADDITIONAL paint topics

### **A WORD TO RENTERS**

Many people think they can't paint their walls because they live in an apartment or rented house. In most cases, this simply is not true!

You can paint your temporary space anything you want while you are living there as long as you paint the walls back to their original color before you leave. Trust me on this!

### **KIDS' ROOMS**

When it comes to kids' rooms, you can let yourself go. This is the place to have some fun. Choose to stripe the walls, add bright accent walls, and paint the ceilings. Just remember paint colors look much brighter when on all 4 walls. I tend to pick my color then back it down a couple steps. By doing that I seldom regret my choices.