

# House Beautiful

125

All the Best

DREAMY  
BLUES

P. 12

COOL  
GRAYS

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PEACHY  
PINKS

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*and (finally!)*  
THE PERFECT  
WHITE PAINT

P. 33

PRADA

The  
COLOR

Issue

THE HAPPIEST  
APARTMENT BY ALWAYS  
DELIGHTFUL DESIGNER  
RAYMAN BOOZER  
P. 72



TO MAKE THIS NOOK GLOW, M. LAVENDER INTERIORS CHOSE A SATIN FINISH. TRY **INTRIGUE** BY BEHR TO GET A SIMILAR LOOK.

# THE NO-FAIL GUIDE TO PAINT

There are a million hard decisions when it comes to choosing the perfect color. We just made them all a little easier. *By Emma Bazilian*

## Choosing the Right White

Baltimore designer Laura Hodges on which tint will work best, depending on the light you get.

### NEUTRAL WHITES

"A neutral white will balance the glow you get in a **west-facing room** at sunset," says Hodges, who recommends **Sherwin-Williams Pure White**.

### WARM WHITES

"I love Pointing by **Farrow & Ball** for its warm undertones," Hodges says. "It always feels very cozy, welcoming, and is great for **northern exposures**, where other tones can look dull and gray."

### COOL WHITES

"**Benjamin Moore Super White** creates a clean canvas that's perfect for walls where you plan to hang a lot of art," says Hodges, who used it in this loft. With **southern exposures**, daylight will add warmth, so use a cooler white.



## Let Your Home Be Your Guide

When you're not sure where to start, take stock of the details already present.

### If You Have Wood Floors...

Georgia-based designer James Farmer recommends going for just enough contrast.



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#### LIGHT WOOD + PINKS

"For more bold color, pinks and corals look great with blond, bleached, and pickled wood. I love **Sockeye** by **Sherwin-Williams**."



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#### WARM WOOD + GREENS

"**Benjamin Moore Jade Romanesque** is one of my favorites for warm oaks and heart pines, which fare well with sage and silvery greens."



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#### DARK WOOD + SOFT BLUES

"Darker woods like cherry and mahogany tend to go more red; soft blues like **Sea Sprite** by **PPG** look great with the patina of antiques."



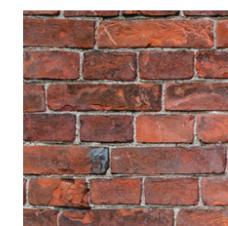
A coat of **Wimborne White** by **Farrow & Ball** on both the trim and shiplap gives this home by James Farmer a sophisticated look.

### If You Have Natural Materials...

Play up complementary shades, says Virginia designer Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey.



In this office by Shazalynn Cavin-Winfrey, **Hillside Green** was used on the walls and **Misted Fern** on the trim and cabinets (both **Benjamin Moore**).



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#### BRICK + BLUES

"One unexpected color I like to use is cerulean, like **Buckland Blue** by **Benjamin Moore**, which creates a nice contrast and feels less formal."



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#### STONE + BROWNS

"To pull the warmth from gray rock, try **Subdued Sienna** by **Sherwin-Williams**—it's a beautiful, almost translucent color."



+



#### BRASS + GRAYS

The designer likes warmer tones when working with brass; if you're set on a neutral, go for **Farrow & Ball Skimming Stone**, a warmer gray.

## Daylight Changes Everything

Paint chips are great, but there's no replacement for testing a color in a real space. Here's proof: We took one white wall and watched it go from brighter in the a.m. sun to gray by sunset.



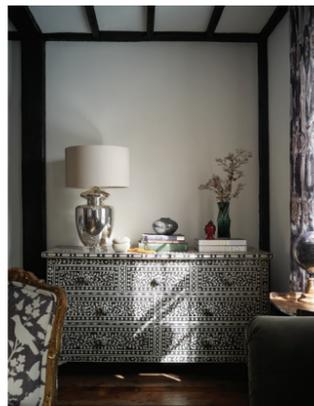
Frost, **Behr**



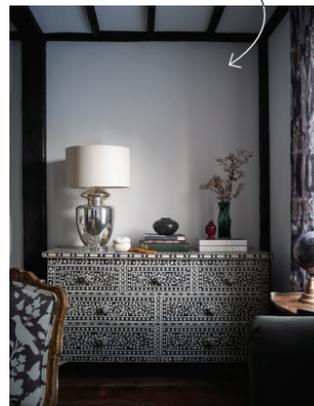
7:45 A.M.  
Soft and glowing.



10:15 A.M.  
Bright and energized.



1:30 P.M.  
Hot and high-contrast.



4:45 P.M.  
Cooled-off and cozy.

THIS PAGE: SWATCHES: GETTY (6); JAMES FARMER; JEFF HERR; SHAZALYNN CAVIN-WINFREY; ANGIE SECKINGER. OPPOSITE PAGE: LAURA HODGES; JENNIFER HUGHES; PAINT TIMES; BJORN WALLANDER.

# How Glossy Should You Go?

A slight change in sheen can make a major difference in both durability and light.



## Flat

Shine-free always looks sophisticated, even in a pastel hue like **Sagebrush** by **Benjamin Moore**, which Chad Graci chose for this New Orleans dining room.



## Eggshell

It's forgivingly family-friendly, resisting fingerprints while still maintaining a glow. Here, Sherrell Neal used **Palmer Green** by **Benjamin Moore**.



## Satin

For a playful-but-practical spin in this pantry, Pulp Design Studios used **Sherwin-Williams Daredevil** in a satin finish, since it's washable but still low-sheen.



## Semigloss

Great for cabinets and millwork (here, Michelle Gage used **Smoke** by **Benjamin Moore**), semigloss can withstand plenty of wear and tear, but isn't so glossy that scratches are easily seen.



## High-Gloss

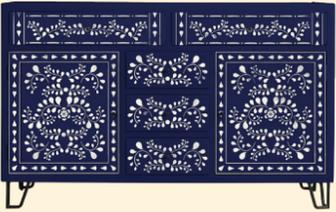
"A dark color can still feel light and bright if you choose a high-shine finish that excites the eye," says Phillip Thomas, who used **Carlyle Aubergine** by **Fine Paints of Europe** on the walls of this room.

**WHAT'S NEW**

**REUSABLE STENCILS!**



To make a patterned wall (or chest of drawers) use **stencils**. A new collection from **Annie Sloan** features florals, bone-inlay patterns, and birds—and are both washable and reusable. From \$20, [anniesloan.com](http://anniesloan.com).



THIS PAGE: CHAD GRACI; SARA ESSEX BRADLEY; SHERRELL NEAL; MICHAEL HUNTER; PULP DESIGN STUDIOS; STEPHEN KARLISCH; MICHELLE GAGE; REBECCA MCALPIN; PHILIP THOMAS; MICHAEL MUNDY; OPPOSITE PAGE: CHAUNCEY BOOTHBY; READ MCKENDREE; ILLUSTRATION: NICHOLAS SLATER.



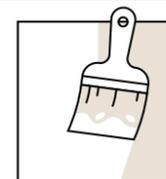
LOVE A COLOR BUT IT DOESN'T JIBE WITH YOUR FLOORS? TINT THE WOOD WITH A ZAR STAIN BY UGL.

For not-too-matchy trim, Boothby mixed the blue-green cabinet color with white paint. One to try: **It Is Well** by Magnolia Home by Joanna Gaines for **Kilz** for a similar look.

"If you have good moldings, a colorful trim will really make the architecture stand out," says Connecticut-based designer Chauncey Boothby. "It's also a cost-effective way to make a statement without splurging on wallpaper or a lot of expensive paint."

## 3 Miracle Primers

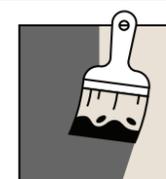
The key to a flawless finish is what's underneath the paint.



A **bonding primer** preps slick surfaces for better adhesion.



Use **block filler** to smooth out masonry like brick and concrete.



For major color changes, brush on a coat of **tinted primer**.

## WHAT'S NEW

### ECO-CONSCIOUS PAINT!



Designer Lisa Tharp teamed up with **Ecos Paints** to create a collection of Earth-friendly and VOC-, pesticide-, and fume-free paints (with ratings for light reflectivity and undertone to simplify the selection process). From \$70 per gallon, [ecospaints.net](http://ecospaints.net).

## Should You DIY or Hire a Pro?

Rick Watson, director of product information and technical services at **Sherwin-Williams**, has some advice.

### Hire a professional if you...

Have ceilings higher than you can comfortably reach on a stepladder

Want to use a specialty finish like a high-gloss or spraying lacquer

Have walls that are in poor condition (i.e., more than can be addressed with some spackle)

Need to strip old paint, which could contain lead

### You should DIY if...

Your walls are in good shape and you're just looking for a color change. The right tools can make a huge difference:

Make sure to invest in high-quality brushes and rollers (otherwise, even the most expensive paint can be ruined), or order an all-in-one kit from **Clare**, **Backdrop**, or **Behr**.



## Designer-Favorite Specialty Finishes

Forget what you thought you knew about textured walls—these looks are chic, not dated.



### Concrete

The secret to Leanne Ford's signature wall finish: a skim coat of SureCrete prior to painting. "I use it a lot when I have plain old drywall that needs a little texture and oomph," she says.

### Roman Clay

A perennial designer favorite, [Portola Paints](#) Roman Clay creates the feel of plaster without the hassle. "I love the subtle movement and lack of uniformity," says Stefani Stein, who also recommends using a matte sealant "to keep that raw, unfinished feel," as in the room above.

WHAT'S NEW

**GERM-KILLING PAINT!**



A no-brainer for kitchens and baths, [Sherwin-Williams](#) new **SuperPaint Interior Latex with Sanitizing Technology** can eliminate 99.9 percent of certain bacteria, and up to 90 percent for up to four years, on painted surfaces. From \$67 per gallon, [sherwin-williams.com](#).



### Limewash

The texture and depth of limewash paint is courtesy of added sandstone aggregate. "We like that it can be applied in a variety of ways—strié, crisscross, or knifed onto the wall," says Caroline Rafferty, who is a fan of the [Portola](#) version, which she used in this room.

STEFANI STEIN: JENNA PEFFEY; LEANNE FORD: ALEXANDRA RIBAR; CAROLINE RAFFERTY: GENEVIEVE GARRUPPO.