

THE LITTLE SECRET TO BIG SAVINGS, PAGE 93

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HUES FLASH

Think about how you use the room and what mood you want.

Lively colors, like reds, oranges and yellows, turn up the volume, providing a friendly backdrop for a family space, kid's room or dining area. Want a tranquil spot for reading and relaxing? Cool off with blues, greens or purples. Neutrals—grays, whites and browns—complement most rooms.



Size up your space. Pale shades work best in sun-filled rooms, while deep tones thrive in poor light. Dimensions matter too. To cozy up a cavernous place, go dark. Feeling cramped? Light hues lend a sense of airiness and expansiveness. But rules are meant to be broken. "A rich color can make a tiny room look like a jewel box," says NYC interior designer John Buscarello.





COLOR

YOUR

WORLD

**Tired of the same four walls? Brighten your rooms—
and your whole outlook—with paint shades you love.**

Just because you're partial to, say, violet doesn't mean you want it on every wall. To discover which hue is you, experts suggest you take stock of your favorite things. Your wardrobe or even your hair color can help you figure out what attracts you and makes you feel your best. Greens, apricots and eggplant tones often flatter redheads, while deep shades complement brunettes. A favorite pillow, area rug or artwork can also be a good starting point. Ask yourself how you react to colors. Do sunny summer hues make you happy? Or is it the coolness of winter that moves you? Still stumped? Tear out pages from magazines of rooms that inspire you. Once you've collected a thick stack, you'll see a pattern. "The pictures will be all blue, all yellow or all high contrast, and you'll know what you want," says Barbara Richardson, director of color marketing for Glidden Paint.

BY TERRY TRUCCO

COLOR YOUR WORLD

BRIGHT IDEA

Not ready to commit? An accent wall, a style statement dusted off from the Seventies, bathes just one wall in color, creating an instant focal point. The hue can be lighter or darker as long as it's dramatically different from the other three walls. "A pale yellow accent wall in a white room doesn't work," says Buscarello.

neat tricks

Use water and a mild soap, like dishwashing liquid, to clean painted walls. To remove crayon or candle wax, freeze the stain with an ice cube and scrape it off. A paint job can be touched up but only while it's new. "After three or four years, colors change, so the touch-up color won't match the original," says Brad Bates, an assistant store manager of Home Depot in Manhattan.

MADE TO ORDER Still can't find a color you like? You can have paint custom-mixed free of charge to match a sample swatch of fabric, wallpaper or a rug at any Home Depot, Ace Hardware or Lowe's store.

