

# FARROW & BALL®

CRAFTSMEN IN PAINT AND PAPER



ALL ABOUT COLOUR



## COLOUR – WHERE TO START

At Farrow & Ball we are renowned for being experts in colour. With an edited palette of 132 carefully selected paint colours, we've made it easier to see which shades complement each other. This means that you don't need to be schooled in the art of interior design to choose a beautiful colour scheme, and most importantly it allows you to create a look you feel comfortable with.

If you do feel daunted by the number of options available, we're here to help. By understanding the light in your home, considering the time of day you most use each space, and discovering which neutrals and colours you are most drawn to – you'll soon feel confident to choose the right colour scheme for your home. Read on to discover our step by step guide to choosing colour.

### Our Advice

Take inspiration from home interior magazines, blogs such as The Chromologist ([thechromologist.com](http://thechromologist.com)), the Farrow & Ball website ([farrow-ball.com](http://farrow-ball.com)) and our Inspiration Site ([inspiration.farrow-ball.com](http://inspiration.farrow-ball.com)), as well as Pinterest and other social media channels. Collate pictures of rooms or ideas that you love – as this will give you a great starting point and help you to hone your colour selections.

Cover image. Walls: Saxon Green® Estate® Emulsion, Walls: Dix Blue® Estate® Emulsion.

I. Walls: Stiffkey Blue® Estate® Emulsion, Floor: Hardwick White® Floor Paint, Woodwork: Light Blue™ Estate® Eggshell, Desk: Setting Plaster® Estate® Eggshell.

## HOW LIGHT AFFECTS COLOUR

Light is the most important thing to consider when choosing colour for your home, as the amount of natural light and the direction a room faces will have a significant impact on the appearance of colour. The same colour can appear quite different from room to room, at different times of the day and even depending on the time of year. We think this variance is beautiful, but know it can add an extra level of complexity to your choice.



## NORTH FACING ROOMS

Colours tend to look cooler and harsher, and it can be difficult to create a feeling of light and space.

Our Advice:

- If you want to use lighter tones, avoid those with a green or grey base, instead use yellow based colours like Ringwold Ground, New White and White Tie which help to bounce light around the room.
- Don't fight nature, instead create a dramatic and cocooning interior by using strong colours like Brinjal, Book Room Red or Down Pipe which all create a sense of intimacy.

## SOUTH FACING ROOMS

Full of warm light most of the day, and on sunny days everything will look more yellow.

Our Advice:

- Maximise the feeling of light and space with pale tones. Soft blues like Pavilion Blue or Borrowed Light create a coastal look, while red-based neutrals like Joa's White will create a warmer feel.
- For a contemporary edge, try colours with cool blue undertones such as Dimpse and use a fairly bright white on woodwork to give a crisp, fresh look.

## WEST & EAST FACING ROOMS

As light changes dramatically throughout the day, consider when you most use an east or west facing room and tailor your colour choice to the type of light you will most often experience.



3. Walls: Dimpse® Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Wevet® Estate® Eggshell.

## WEST FACING ROOMS

Light is cooler and more muted in the morning then filled with dramatic light in the afternoon.

Our Advice:

- Use colours with a red undertone to accentuate the warm light in the afternoon and evening sun. Soft pinks like Middleton Pink or Great White will create a really warm glow.
- White walls will really enhance both natural and artificial light – try Wimborne White or Pointing for an airy feel.
- Greyer neutrals such as Slipper Satin and Ammonite should retain a feeling of light – although the colour will change from morning to evening – cooler earlier and warmer later.



### Quick Tip – Making Rooms Feel Lighter

Use a darker colour in a hallway to instantly make any rooms off the hallway seem brighter and bigger. As you walk into a lighter room from a darker space, it's bound to feel cavernous.



## EAST FACING ROOMS

Light is bright in the morning and cooler and more muted in the afternoon and can appear to be a little blue.

Our Advice:

- Work in harmony with the cooler light tones and choose greens or blues. Create as much light as possible but still retain some warmth with Pale Powder or Teresa's Green, which will really come alive in the morning sunlight. Team with a darker tone on woodwork or furniture such as Chappell Green or Dix Blue so that the walls appear lighter in contrast.
- If you want to use a white, choose one with a green or blue base such as James White or Cabbage White.

## ARTIFICIAL LIGHT

Artificial lighting also affects how colours can appear in a room. Halogen and incandescent bulbs emit yellow light making colours appear warmer, while LED lighting emits blue light and is more suited to contemporary interiors. Bulbs that emit white light emulate daylight and colours appear most true. When decorating a room often lit with candles, opt for velvety colours, such as Dead Salmon or silvery colours such as Ball Green to give an intimate, romantic feel.







## DISCOVER YOUR FAVOURITE NEUTRAL FAMILY

From pretty yellow-based neutrals to architectural blue-based greys, there are six core neutral families all of which work well as colour schemes in their own right, as well as providing a strong foundation for every other colour on the card.

Selecting the right neutral group for you is easy – consider the light in your room, and decide which neutral colour family you are most drawn to. From this point you can begin to build a decorating scheme accented with bolder colours and wallpapers that flows throughout your home.

The beauty of choosing your neutral family is that once chosen you can be confident that using these colours will create a cohesive look.

Browse each neutral group in turn over the next few pages to discover more about the look and feel they will create in your home. We've included a few complementary colours and wallpapers for each group to give you an idea about how each group can work with an accent colour.

Which neutral group is your favourite?

## TRADITIONAL NEUTRALS



This sophisticated group of neutrals has traditional roots but also works extremely well in contemporary situations. Their underlying grey-green tones have a softness that creates a decorative scheme which feels as if it has been there forever.



1. Walls: Slipper Satin® Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Off White™ Estate® Eggshell.

### Suggested Accents



Brocade BP 3208



Pigeon®



Mouse's Back®

## YELLOW-BASED NEUTRALS



The prettiest and simplest of the neutral groups. These creamy undertones have their roots in the country and are very easy to live with. However, they should never be thought of as purely yellow – their traditional values stem from the addition of a minute amount of black, which takes them from the ordinary to the very special.



2. Walls: White Tie® Modern Emulsion, Bath: Pelt® Estate® Eggshell, Woodwork: Pointing® Estate® Eggshell.

### Suggested Accents



Ocelot BP 3702



Cat's Paw®



Tanner's Brown®

## RED-BASED NEUTRALS



The red base in these ageless neutrals creates the warmest of all the neutral schemes. They work beautifully in traditional situations but are also particularly useful in contemporary homes, being sympathetic with many materials used today, including leather and stone.



1. Walls: Archive® & London Stone® Modern Emulsion, Ceiling: Dimity® Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Pointing® Estate® Eggshell.

### Suggested Accents



Brockhampton Star BP 501



London Clay®



Eating Room Red®

## CONTEMPORARY NEUTRALS



This group has an urban contemporary feel, and to most will appear grey. However, the magic of these neutrals lies in the fact that they have an underlying lilac tone, which brings a little edge to decorative schemes while retaining a certain warmth.



2. Walls: Wimborne White® Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Wimborne White® Estate® Eggshell.

### Suggested Accents



Lotus BP 2011



Charleston Gray®



Pelt®

## EASY GREYS



These neutrals have a gossamer appearance that is ideal for those who prefer understated decoration. Neither too cool nor too warm, many people interpret them as the hugely popular tones of the Gustavian period. They are comforting and easy to use.



1. Walls: Purbeck Stone™ Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Comfort White® Estate® Eggshell, Floor: Ammonite® Floor Paint, Wardrobe: Purbeck Stone™ Estate® Eggshell.

### Suggested Accents



Tented Stripe ST 13113



Railings™



Stiffkey Blue®

## ARCHITECTURAL COOL



This is the ideal group for those wanting a strong architectural feel. Purposely cool, with a bluer undertone than the other groups, these neutrals create a more hard-edged look that is conducive to minimal living.



2. Walls: Dimpse® & Stiffkey Blue® Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Dimpse® Estate® Eggshell, Floor: Down Pipe® Floor Paint.

### Suggested Accents



Lattice BP 3503



Down Pipe®



St Giles Blue®



## ACCENT COLOURS

When it comes to accent colours there are no hard and fast rules; we recommend building from your neutrals and finding an accent colour that harmonises well and appeals to you. Below we've teamed Easy Greys neutrals with a different accent colour to highlight how the feel of each scheme changes: The harmonising contrast of Mole's Breath, coolness of Stiffkey Blue, soft warmth of Nancy's Blushes and uplifting injection of a chair in Yellowcake.



1. Walls: Purbeck Stone™ Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Purbeck Stone™ Estate® Eggshell, Chair: Yellowcake® Estate® Eggshell, Floor: Down Pipe® Floor Paint.

## COLOUR SCHEME IDEAS

The best way to build a colour scheme that works is to play around with different colours, those that work well together will often have similar colour undertones. Over the next few pages we've put together some colours scheme ideas to get you started...

Using neutrals and accents with warm undertones of pink, yellow and red brings a cozy feel to an interior.





## COLOUR SCHEME IDEAS

Using soft blues and greens in a colour scheme infuses a room with tranquillity, serenity and a feeling of calm. Inspired by the outdoors, pale blues schemes evoke coastal living, while green schemes are fresh and connected to nature.



I. Walls: Breakfast Room Green® Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Calke Green® Estate® Eggshell, Floor Paint: Light Gray™ Floor Paint.



## COLOUR SCHEME IDEAS

Incorporate vibrant hues or rich dark tones into your colour scheme for instant impact. Bright colours bring a room to life, while dark hues create an intimate atmosphere. Use a contrasting accent colour with a bright colour, or lighter complementary colour with a dark tone if you want to temper their impact.



I. Walls: Oval Room Blue® Estate® Emulsion, Table: Cook's Blue® Estate® Eggshell.

## PATTERN & COLOUR

Wallpaper offers the perfect way to create a distinctive look and bring tactility and texture into your scheme. One of the great bonuses of using Farrow & Ball wallpapers is that they are made from our actual paint so you can always find a complementary colour to work in harmony with the design. When working with pattern there are so many options and really nothing to limit your choice. Here are a few pointers to help:

- For a cohesive feel, use a common palette throughout, co-ordinating the dominant colour of your wallpaper design with flooring, paintwork, fabrics and accessories.
- You can play safe and layer pattern and colour using a neutral palette – this creates a beautiful subtly textured look, and you can use accents colours in smaller accessories cushions and ornaments.
- Mix and match patterns with areas of solid colour, this avoids a room feeling overwhelmed and instead creates balance and pulls patterns together.



1. Walls: Paisley BP 4702, Woodwork: Old White® Estate® Eggshell, 2. Walls: BP 2808 Renaissance, Woodwork: Teresa's Green® Estate® Eggshell.



# COLOUR SCHEME IDEAS WITH WALLPAPER



## Quick Tip – Visualising a Scheme

Create a mood board of colour and pattern samples that are sized in proportion to how you intend to use them – i.e a larger sample of the colour/pattern being used on walls.



## CREATING FLOW THROUGH YOUR HOME

We recommend choosing colours that all have the same tonal weight. It's best to decorate floor by floor, considering the sightlines between rooms – there's no need for military precision, but it is worth envisioning how colours will complement the adjacent rooms.

It can be rather effective to reverse wall and woodwork colours room by room, switching the colour of the walls in the main area to the woodwork colour of the other rooms. This creates a feeling of continuity throughout, and varies drama, as some rooms will be lighter than others, but still feel connected.



# EXAMPLES OF TONAL WEIGHTS

## LIGHT TONES



Middleton Pink®



Tungate Green®



Pavilion Blue™

## MID TONES



Cinder Rose™



Breakfast Room Green®



Lulworth Blue®

## DARK TONES



Brinjal®



Hague Blue®



Studio Green®

## COLOUR INSPIRATION



Colour can bring a sense of fun and quirkiness into a room – these colourful pipes turn a rather functional feature into a talking point.

## COLOUR INSPIRATION



Layering colour is one of the best ways to create an unusual yet coherent decorating scheme. Simply painting the panelling different shades of grey creates a patchwork effect that gives this neutral space an edge.

## COLOUR INSPIRATION



Painting a headboard directly onto the wall is one of the quickest and easiest decorating updates you can make. Choose a colour that will enhance the accessories in your room, here regal Pelt complements the eclectic bedding.

I. Walls: Cornforth White® Estate® Emulsion, Wardrobe: Cornforth White® Estate® Eggshell, Headboard: Pelt® Estate® Eggshell, Shelf: Breakfast Room Green® Estate® Eggshell.

## COLOUR INSPIRATION



2

Painter's tools can be used to create innovative, quirky patterns like these frivolous stripes.



## CHOOSING COLOUR FOR EXTERIORS

You can create fabulous schemes outside your home and in the garden with Farrow & Ball colours. Think about the following factors:

- The aspect of your property and surrounding area.
- Consider the period of your property and the style and colour of neighbouring buildings; in particular, whether you wish to create a complementary or contrasting scheme.
- Look for dominant features like brickwork, natural wood and expanses of other colours such as paved or gravelled areas, lawns, fencing, shrubs and even flowers – all of which can affect colour choice.



1. Pots: Cook's Blue®, Breakfast Room Green®, Arsenic® & Borrowed Light® Exterior Masonry; 2. Woodwork: Brassica® & Calke Green® Exterior Eggshell, 3. Cladding: Off-Black™ Exterior Eggshell, Door: Blue Ground® Exterior Eggshell, Fence: Wimborne White® Exterior Eggshell.





## DECORATING TIPS FOR EXTERIORS

- When decorating outside, you can usually go a shade or two darker than you would inside, because you mostly see exterior colours in daylight. If you are considering using Slipper Satin try Off-White, or Green Smoke instead of French Gray.
- To make a feature of your entrance, paint your front door and frame in one colour to help make it look bigger and more imposing.
- Consider paint finish as well as colour for your front door; Exterior Eggshell creates a relaxed feel in softer colours and a more contemporary look in stronger colours. Full Gloss gives a classic look and is especially effective in stronger colours such as Hague Blue, Brinjal or Railings.
- Layer colours outside just as you would inside to create added interest. Try using a mixture of colours on garden furniture such as Mizzle on chairs, with a table top painted in Old White and table legs in Mouse's Back.

### Quick Tip – How to create flow indoors to outside

Use the same colour from an interior room that leads to your garden on a piece of outdoor furniture or on a garden wall to help connect the two spaces together.





## COLOUR IN SITU

Nothing beats seeing colour in situ; visit our showrooms and stockists where you can browse our painted colour boards to create your own colour schemes and seek expert colour advice.

As colours look different in different light, we always recommend testing the colour at home. Paint out a sample pot onto A4 sheets of paper or card. Pin them up and move them around your space, looking at them at different times of the day – this allows you to see the colour in different lights and helps you to decide whether you can happily 'live' with the colour.

For more decorating advice with colour, join us at a Farrow & Ball Colour Talk\* or discover our range of books including *Living with Colour* and *Decorating with Colour*, each is full of useful advice and inspirational images of real homes.



\* Colour talks are available on a first come first served basis at various locations and times throughout the year. Please ask in your local showroom or stockist for details and visit our events pages online at [www.farrow-ball.com](http://www.farrow-ball.com) for details of any upcoming events in your area.

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I. Ceiling: All White™ Estate® Emulsion, Walls: Cornforth White® Estate® Emulsion, Woodwork: Strong White® Estate® Eggshell.



## OUR PAINT

Farrow & Ball paints are water-based, low VOC, low odour, eco-friendly and child safe, perfect for your home environment and family.

## WHERE TO FIND US

Our paints, wallpapers, books and accessories are available from our showrooms and stockists around the world and can also be ordered directly:

+44 (0)1202 876141  
[www.farrow-ball.com](http://www.farrow-ball.com)

BE INSPIRED

