House Paint Color Charts

Exterior House Paint Color Combinations

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

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Coordinating house colors can be confusing. Most houses will use a palette with at least three different colors for siding, trim, and accents. Your local paint store or home supply store can give you sample color charts with suggested color combinations. Or, you can view paint color charts online using the links below.

Please note that colors you see on your computer screen are approximate. Always try a sample of the actual paint before making your final decision. Also, consider using easy, free House Color Visualization Software to view color choices on your house.

1. Le Corbusier Architectural Paint Palettes

Bauhaus architect Le Corbusier is known for designing stark white buildings, but his interiors vibrated with color, ranging from pastels to brights to deep earthen hues. Working for the Swiss company Salubra, Le Corbusier created a series of color chords with cutout viewers that allowed designers to see various combinations. Many years after Le Corbusier's death, his color chords were reproduced in the book Polychromie Architecturale (compare prices). The Swiss firm, kt.COLOR now manufactures reproduction colors from Polychromie Architecturale. More than 120 different mineral pigments are used to reproduce each color, making the Le Corbusier palettes especially rich.

2. Fallingwater® Inspired Colors

Photo by Wmclure333, Creative Commons Attribution 2.0 Generic License
Inspired by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, *Fallingwater® Inspired Colors* includes Cherokee Red and a dozen other colors found in Wright's famous *Fallingwater*. The Western Pennsylvania Conservancy has authenticated the palette. *Fallingwater® Inspired Colors* are part of the Voice of Color® Collection by Pittsburgh® Paints.

3. **MyPerfectColor.com**

Find color charts, color combinations, and paint color formulas for more than 100,000 paint colors from over 100 paint manufacturers. Read articles about paint color choices and ask questions about selecting paint color. Order paint color fan decks, Benjamin Moore brand paints, or sample-sized "mini" cans of Benjamin Moore paint tinted to any color from any brand paint manufacturer.

4. **National Trust for Historic Preservation Palette**

The National Trust for Historic Preservation worked extensively with Valspar® paints to develop a palette of 250 colors found on historic buildings in the USA. The National Trust for Historic Preservation colors can be purchased at Lowe's home improvement stores.

5. **CBN Color Charts**

This online database will let you view thousands of colors from major paint manufacturers like Benjamin Moore, Behr, Sherwin Williams, and many others. Click on a manufacturer's name to view color chips and popular color combinations online, or download free trial paint color software with free paint color palettes.

6. **California Paints Historic Colors of America**

California Paints worked with Historic New England (formerly SPNEAU) to create a palette of colors from America’s past. Colors are grouped according to historic period and architectural style.

7. **Valspar Paint Color Palettes**

Choose colors from Valspar color palettes, then select from a library of photos to see how your chosen colors look on rooms and houses. Also find recommended color palettes for various house styles.
8. **Benjamin Moore Virtual Fan Deck**

Browse Benjamin Moore paint colors online. Click on *Virtual Fan Deck* to view colors from the same Benjamin Moore paint chip "fan decks" you'd find at a Benjamin Moore paint store.

9. **KILZ Casual Colors**

KILZ® is known for manufacturing stain-covering primers, and they claim that their Casual Color paints also provide great hiding properties. If you use a roller and choose a color from the KILZ palette, you shouldn't need to apply a second coat. (Although you may still need to use a primer.) The colors shown on this one-page palette are just a sample of the available color line. KILZ Casual Colors paint is sold at WalMart stores.

**Pick Paint Colors For Your House**

**Tips to Help You Choose House Paint Colors**

By [Jackie Craven](mailto:JackieCraven@About.com), About.com Guide

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A colorful garden inspired the paint color for this cheerful yellow bungalow.

*Photo © Ryan McVay/Getty Images*

Picking house paint colors isn't just difficult. It's terrifying! Pick colors that are blah, and your house will seem flat and featureless. But if the colors you pick are too bold, they might overwhelm the architecture... and upset the neighbors.

The best colors will highlight the most beautiful features of your home. Skillful use of color can even disguise design flaws, boosting the curb appeal and market value of your home. How do you find that magic color combination? Follow these tips.
1. Honor History
If you're planning to paint an older home, you'll probably want to use a historically accurate color scheme. You can hire a pro to analyze old paint chips and recreate the original color. Or, you can refer to historic color charts and select shades that might have been used at the time your home was built.
Photo: Historic Colors

2. Jazz Up the Past
In some neighborhoods, homeowners fly in the face of history. Instead of choosing historically accurate colors, they paint their houses modern colors to dramatize architectural details. Using bright colors on old architectural details can produce startling and exciting results. But before you buy 10 gallons of bubblegum pink, it's a good idea to look at what your neighbors are doing. A fluorescent colored Victorian that looks splendid in San Francisco will seem wildly out of place in more conservative neighborhoods.
Photo: Jazzy Colors

3. Consider Your Neighbors
The house next door can give you paint color ideas, but don't copy your neighbor exactly. Choose colors that set your house apart, without clashing with nearby buildings.
Photo: Colorful Cottages

4. Borrow From Nature
The landscape around your house is blooming with color ideas. Trees may suggest an earthy palette of greens and browns. A beach setting might suggest vivid blues, turquoises, and coral colors. Even the garden in your front yard can inspire exciting color combinations.
Photo: Nature's Colors

5. Check the Roof
Your house is your canvas, but it is not blank. Some colors are already established. What color is your roof? Your paint color doesn't need to match the roof, but it should harmonize.
Photo: Roof Colors

6. Look For Things That Won't Be Painted
Every home has some features that will not be painted. Does your house have brick walls? Vinyl windows? A natural wooden door? Will steps and railings remain their existing colors? Choose a color scheme that harmonizes with colors already present on your house.
Photo: Brick and Stone

7. Find Inspiration in Your Living Room
It may seem comical to paint entire house based on the pattern of a pillow case, but this approach does make sense. The color of your furnishings will guide you in the selection of your interior paint colors, and your interior paint colors will influence the colors you use outside. Once again, your goal is to harmonize.
Photo: Wright's Red
8. Focus on Details
Depending on the size and complexity of your home, you may want to choose two, three, or as many as six colors. In addition to color for your siding, select accent colors for shutters, moldings, doors, window sashes, brackets, columns, and porch decks. But beware: too many colors will overwhelm your house. Too few can make your house seem flat and uninteresting.

**Photo:** Detail Colors

9. Use Light to Add Size
It’s no wonder large, grand estates are often painted white. Light colors make a building look larger, and white is the favored color for traditional classical architecture. You can add to your home's sense of size and dignity by using white or a pale cream color.

**Photo:** Classic White

10. Go Dark For Drama
Dark siding or dark bands of trim will make your house seem smaller, but will draw more attention to details. Darker shades are best for accenting recesses, while lighter tones will highlight details that project from the wall surface. On traditional Victorian homes, the darkest paint is often used for the window sashes.

**Photo:** Dramatic Accents

11. Discover Color Families
Contrasting colors will draw attention to architectural details. But, extreme contrasts will clash and actually detract from details. To be safe, consider staying within a single color family. For some accents, try using a darker or lighter shade instead of a different color.

**Photo:** Subtle Colors

12. Strike a Balance
A burst of a single color on just one part of your home may give it a lopsided appearance. Strive to balance colors over the entire building.

**Photo:** Balanced Colors

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**Green House Colors**

**House Paint Color Pictures: Green House Colors**

By [Jackie Craven](http://www.jackiecraven.com), About.com Guide

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Green offers a wide palette of hues, ranging from the vibrant yellow green of a spring leaf to subtle gray-green, olive, and moss colors.

Earthy greens blend well with natural woodsy settings and are often used on Bungalows and rustic Shingle Style houses. Dark forest or pine green is a traditional color for shutters and trim on many Colonial and Victorian era houses. For a modern or Art Deco house, bright lime green can add pizazz. Add a touch of blue, and the color will turn a vivid turquoise.

The pictures in this gallery suggest ways you can use green colors in your house painting project. Need more help? Scroll down the page for links to more house color combinations, house color tips, and tools to help you choose the best colors for your house.

Images 1-8 of 8

Enter Gallery

Psychedelic Green in San Francisco
Gray Green Bungalow
Red and Green
Cotswold Cottage Colors

Forest Green in Poland
Brick with Green
Moss Green Shingles
Green Ranch

Blue House Colors

House Paint Color Pictures: Blue House Colors

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

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Like the sky itself, blue has many moods. A bright blue house may appear playful, especially when trimmed with crisp pure white. Gray-toned slate blues and almost-black midnight blues suggest quiet dignity. Deep red accents can add richness to darker blues.

Mixing blues can be tricky, because two different shades of blue will clash. To be safe, stay with a single blue and choose whites, grays, and red for moldings and details.

The pictures in this gallery suggest ways you can use blue colors in your house painting project. Need more help? Scroll down the page for links to more house color combinations, house color tips, and tools to help you choose the best colors for your house.

Images 1-3 of 3

Enter Gallery

Yellow and Gold House Colors

House Paint Color Pictures: Yellow and Gold House Colors

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

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- exterior paints

Sunny yellow and gold colors will give nearly any house an aura of warmth. Yellows are also highly adaptable, harmonizing well with brick and stone.

White and gray are popular trim colors for houses painted pale yellow. Deeper yellow and gold colors work well with browns and dark reds. The pictures in this gallery suggest ways you can use yellow and gold colors in your house painting project. Need more help? Scroll down the
A house painted pink can seem feminine and playful, but darken the color and the pink will become a dramatic shade of rose or coral. Add a touch of yellow, and the pink will turn a sunny shade of salmon or peach.

Pink colors are often paired with white, but off-whites, pale yellows, dusty greens, grays, and fawn colors can also work well with pink. The pictures in this gallery suggest ways you can use pink colors in your house painting project. Need more help? Scroll down the page for links to more house color combinations, house color tips, and tools to help you choose the best colors for your house.
How To Pick Paint Colors For Your House Exterior

By Jackie Craven, About.com Guide

See More About:

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- adding curb appeal
- victorian architecture

Exterior House Paint Paint Bedroom Paint Colors Exterior Home Colors Wall Painting Colors

Your house is your canvas. Here's how to choose paint colors that will bring out its beauty and character.

Time Required: At least 2-3 weeks
Here's How:

1. Begin with colors suggested by your roof and masonry.
2. Consider the color schemes used inside your home. Exterior colors should harmonize with the interior.
3. Don’t clash with your neighbors! Choose colors that coordinate with the buildings around you.
5. Remember that very bright or very deep colors will fade.
6. To emphasize architectural details, outline them with an accent color that contrasts with the background.
7. Use darker colors to emphasize shadows and lighter colors to show projections.
8. Avoid extreme contrasts. Choose colors that are related.
9. Study color samples outside, but never in direct sunlight. Bright sun will distort the color.
10. Photocopy a sketch or photograph of your house. Use watercolors or colored pencils to try color combinations.
11. Before buying large quantities of paint, buy quarts of your selected colors and paint one area of your house.
12. Take your time... be creative... and have fun!

Tips:

1. The simpler your house, the fewer colors you'll need. For an elaborate Victorian, plan to use four to six colors.
2. Light colors will make your house seem larger. Dark colors or bands of trim will make your house seem smaller, but will draw more attention to details.
3. For some accents, consider using darker or lighter shades instead of changing color.

http://www.exterior-house-paint-colors.com/

**Exterior House Paint Colors-The Best of the Best**

Exterior House Paint Colors

What are the Best Exterior House Paint Colors for Me?

In my work as a color consultant, many people have asked me this question. It’s a big question! It’s kinda like asking what’s the best ice cream flavor…that depends on if I want something really oink-y or not! Ask 50 people and you will most likely get as many answers. Color preference is highly personal. As my grandmother used to say, “and that’s why they make chocolate AND vanilla”.
But Wait, There’s More!

OK, so you’re probably saying, “that’s all well and good but it still doesn’t help me much”. And you’re right, there’s not much direction there. Hope does exist and it is real! Read on for some set guidelines for choosing the best exterior house paint colors which I will share with you. These pointers will help you to weed out the poor choices and send you in the direction of the perfect paint color. To make a bad analogy, I’m going to help you find the rainbow, go over the rainbow, and help you get the pot of gold (or whatever other color you like).

How to Use Logic Creatively

Now there’s an oxymoron! “Help” you say, “I don’t have a creative bone in my body”. That’s OK because I have a workaround. I will show you how to use your left brain to help your right brain. Or, simply how to apply your highly logical mind to come up with concrete solutions to creative problems.

Start by Asking Some Basic Questions

1. Where do you live?

Urban, Suburban or Rural?

What looks right in town can look downright garish in a suburban setting. Temper the colors to the setting.

East coast? Midwest? South?, etc.

Regional preferences in paint colors and the quality of the light influence color choice.

Historic community?

Do you have to follow narrow guidelines because your house is in a historic district or… maybe you just want to use traditional colors on your older home.

Near Water? Mountains?

Reflected light from water or foliage affects color choices. For example, I live in southeastern Massachusetts on the Rhode Island border. I am about 50 miles from Cape Cod. House colors down on the Cape can take bolder color. The reflected light from the sea makes everything look a bit sharper. The same brighter colors in my neighborhood would look overdone.

2. What style is your house?

CapeCod, Colonial, Bungalow, Tudor, Adobe, Townhouse, Contemporary, etc.
Don’t let your grandmother wear your daughter’s mini-skirt! Even though they may both be size 6’s, the same treatment is great on one but badder than bad on the other. Your Victorian gingerbread house will ask for very different colors than your Tudor.

3. What color is your roof?

Predominately black, charcoal, red, etc., composite shingled, wood shingles, metal, tile, etc.

Depending on how the house presents itself to the street, the roof can be a major field of color.

4. Which direction does your house face? N,S,E, or W?

Some colors are more apt to fade with exposure to bright sunlight, do you know which ones?

5. Shaded or Sunny?

Colors will be magnified or lessened depending on the quality of the light. A house which gets bright sun and is painted yellow may be able to be seen out at sea for 100 nautical miles. I’m just kidding, you can only see about 50 miles to the horizon.

6. Foundation Plantings?

Do you have plantings which have unusual color either in their flowering or their foliage?

Wow, I Can Breathe a Bit Easier Now!

This really isn’t that hard is it? Using a flow chart approach like this automatically eliminates the choices which would not be right. Then you can focus on those that remain. The more questions you ask, the smaller the group of potential colors gets until you are left with just a few. Then the only thing you have to deal with is your personal list of colors you like and those that you don’t.

It’s Diana Ross AND The Supremes

What does that mean?

It’s my way of describing how a color scheme or any design is put together. You always have a focal point, the main center of interest and you have supporting members who are not as important as the star but which help flesh the whole thing out.. For instance, your main house color, then your supporting cast; trim, shutters, roof. Often, there is a spotlight that pinpoints a special moment, this can be your front door color. See what I mean?

Decorating is Theater - The “WOW” Factor

A house gets painted to protect it from the weather so what’s all the hub-bub about color? Well if all paint did was to protect the house, all houses would be white. Choosing your own colors lets
you express yourself. It also can change your house from just average to “WOW”. Don’t we all want our homes to be the best they can be?

Best Exterior Paint Colors for Spring: Brighten Up Your Home with a Quick Paint Job

These Pretty, Brand Name Exterior Paint Colors Can Really Brighten Up Your House

Cassandra James, Yahoo! Contributor Network
Jan 16, 2009 "Contribute content like this. Start Here."

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Spring is a great time to paint the exterior of your house. The weather is nice, you’re spending more time outdoors and, when you are outside, you’re noticing your house could use some new paint. If you’re thinking of painting your house this Spring though, what exterior paint colors should you use? Does it really matter what exterior paint colors you choose? And what exterior paint brands should you buy this spring?

This spring, just like at any other time, choosing the right exterior paint colors is actually quite important. First, depending on where you live, you might have rules regarding what exterior paint colors you can use. Some sub-divisions and gated communities are quite specific about exterior paint, so make sure you check into this before buying the paint. Second, even if your neighborhood is painted in low-key colors and you’d like to brighten it up a little, you don’t want to have your house looking too brash next to all the grays and creams. Third, make sure everyone in the family likes the new exterior paint colors. There’s nothing worse for your marriage then having your wife come home every day already hating the color of the house that YOU painted. And fourth, choose the correct exterior paint colors for the location of your house. If you’re in a hot climate, don’t choose dark colors as they tend to fade in the sun much faster than their lighter siblings.

Some of the best exterior paint colors that will suit most houses and most locations this spring are the following ones:
Benjamin Moore's Atrium White would make a very pretty exterior paint this spring. It’s a beige-white, very low-key, yet sweet. It will also warm up the exterior appearance of your house, giving it a lovely clean spring look and it’s not too loud for the neighbors. Don't forget, also, an exterior paint job should be made up of at least three colors so that the trim and every accent of your house can be seen. It's usually better to go with a lighter trim and accents and a slightly darker house color. This way the window frames, doors and accents don't look like they've been stuck on there by a happy-go-lucky five year old in his very first 'me and my house picture'.

Dutch Boy's Dura Weather Exterior Paint is perfect for wood siding, stucco, brick and hardboard. Dutch Boy has some very nice paint colors, but I particularly love Long Beach 5B-1. It definitely has a California feel to it and reminds me of early LA mornings, sunny evenings and barbecues on the back lawn. Lovely for a nice new look for spring.

Sherwin-Williams isn't one of the top paint companies for nothing. This spring, why don’t you paint the exterior of your house in Downing Stone? Downing Stone is a gray color, but not a drab, dull gray. Downing Stone is a warm, elegant gray and is especially lovely for those home owners who like their homes to be a little darker but still chic.

Don't forget Sears when it comes to exterior paint this spring. Sears has a gorgeous light green paint, Frosty Mint, which would give your house a cool and elegant look. Frosty Mint is perfect for spring as it's crisp and clean. Match it with a lighter green for the trim and accents or even beige, and your house really will be pretty this spring.

Finally, Sherwin-Williams has a Color Visualizer tool on their website that is just stupendous. It allows you to look at over 1,500 different paint colors. You can pick a photograph of a house, then drag and drop different colors to the photograph so you can actually see what a house would look like with the exterior painted in the colors you choose. There are many house photos, so one of them is likely to look similar to yours. It’s here that I discovered Sherwin-Williams’ Rambling Rose, a deep pink exterior paint color that's really gorgeous, especially when it's matched with Likeable Sand for the trim and Chateau Brown for the accents.

Don't forget, if you're not an exterior paint color expert there are several websites that can help you choose colors or tell you which paint colors are preferable for the exterior of your house.

Lowes.com has some excellent tips on paint colors as well as information on what qualities a paint needs to make it a good exterior paint. CBN Color Charts is an online database of tons of paint manufacturer's colors, and here you can also download all the colors they have in their database onto your computer to refer to at will. It also enables you to match any paint colors in
their database with similar colors from other manufacturer's - a very cool tool indeed. And, as I
mentioned, Sherwin-Williams' Color Visualizer tool on their website is an amazing way to make
sure your spring exterior paint colors are really what you want.

So, if you're a little nervous about choosing an exterior paint color for your house this spring,
really, don't worry about it. Any information you need is on the websites I mentioned, and you
can't go wrong choosing any of these brand name paint colors. Happy painting!