

Step-by-Step Choosing Paint Guide

A calm, practical way to choose color, sheen, and finish with confidence.

Paint is affected by light, neighboring colors, finishes, and the life of the room. Use this guide to narrow choices slowly and record what you learn before buying gallons.

THE SIX-STEP PROCESS

- 1. Begin with the room's desired feeling and the colors already staying.
- 2. Identify the room's natural and artificial light throughout the day.
- 3. Collect a small group of swatches with compatible undertones.
- 4. Test large samples on more than one wall; never decide from a tiny chip.
- 5. View the samples morning, afternoon, evening, and with lamps on.
- 6. Confirm the sheen, record the final formula, and keep a labeled touch-up sample.

BEFORE YOU SAMPLE

- ☐ Fixed finishes identified: flooring, stone, tile, cabinetry, and countertops
- ☐ Trim and ceiling colors recorded
- ☐ Adjacent rooms considered
- ☐ Desired mood written in three to five words
- ☐ Sample budget and decision date set

Light and Undertone Review

A color can look balanced in one room and unexpectedly cool, warm, green, pink, or gray in another. Compare samples against the permanent elements they must live beside.

ROOM

DESIRED FEELING

LIGHT DIRECTION AND STRONGEST TIME OF DAY

UNDERTONES I NEED TO WORK WITH

- ☐ Warm: cream, yellow, gold, peach, red, or warm wood
- ☐ Cool: blue, violet, cool gray, or blue-green
- ☐ Earthy: olive, clay, stone, linen, or brown
- ☐ Mixed: note which fixed finish should lead the decision

COLORS OR FINISHES THIS PAINT MUST RELATE TO

COLORS I WANT TO AVOID

Paint Sample Comparison

COLOR / BRAND	MORNING	AFTERNOON	EVENING	LAMPS ON

SAMPLE THAT FEELS MOST CONSISTENT

WHAT CHANGES WHEN THE LIGHT CHANGES

MY FINAL CHOICE AND WHY

Final Paint Record

ROOM / SURFACE	BRAND + COLOR	CODE	SHEEN	QTY

SHEEN REMINDER

Flat or matte softens wall imperfections. Eggshell and satin offer more wipeability. Semi-gloss is often used for trim, doors, and hardworking surfaces. Always follow the paint maker's recommendations for the room and substrate.

STORE, FORMULA LABEL, AND PURCHASE DATE

TOUCH-UP PAINT LOCATION