Tips for Choosing a Color Scheme for a Room by Steven Goodall

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Interior designers seem to have an innate ability to pick amazing color schemes out of a hat. They can just look at a room and come up with great ideas. Unfortunately, many of us DIY'ers don't seem to have this sixth sense. We stare at a room with bland white walls and just can't picture what colors we should use to make the room beautiful. How many colors should we use? Should we have an accent wall? Do we need to reupholster our furniture? Well, to help out with that crucial step of choosing a color scheme, here areâ€¦

5 Tips For Choosing a Color Scheme:

1.Select a primary color from an existing piece in the room which you intend to keep in that room. This would usually be a focal piece within the room that brings all the other design elements together. This may be a sofa, rug, or large piece of artwork.

2.Consider the mood you want to room to set. Natural colors like blues, greens, and browns tend to be more relaxing and remind people of nature. Rich colors like reds, oranges, and yellows tend to warm a room up and make it feel cozier. Using bold colors with high contrast can make a room feel more festive and exciting.

3.Get lighter as you go higher. Use lighter shades towards the top of the room or on the ceiling and use darker shades for the floor. Medium colors? You guessed it. They go in the middle on the walls.

4.Use a color wheel. Most paint and hardware stores have color a color wheel and/or color swatches. Once you have picked out your primary color (possibly from that central focus piece in the room) use the color wheel to find additional complimentary colors. Color swatch cards usually already have 3 or more complimentary colors on the cards.

5.Choose three shades. If you are using a focal piece that has multiple colors in it, pull three shades out of that focal piece to create your color scheme. If you aren't using a focal piece or your focal piece only has one color, use a color wheel to pick 2 additional shades. Sure, you'll use more than three colors in the room, but these 3 colors will be your primary colors.

6.Choose something you like, not just something you think other people will like. We all like to impress our guests with a beautiful home, but in the end, it's you who lives there and you who will spend the most time in the room. So, make sure you pick colors that you like.

7.When in doubt go neutral. Neutral colors are the browns, greys, whites and blacks. Using various shades of neutral colors can create a beautiful room with a timeless quality. Neutral colors are also best if you are planning to sell your house in the near future as neutral colors appeal to more people.

Lastly, don't be afraid to take a little risk. Pick out the colors you like and go for it. If you still feel a little unsure, pay attention as you visit other people's houses and note ideas that you could use in your home or you can always ask a friend who seems to have an eye for design.

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Steven Goodall is a passionate interior design writer. Few things excite him more than seeing the right paint, a upholstery fabric, rug and accessories come together in a beautiful design. Steven writes for blogs and a a discount fabric store.

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