

# create a *superior exterior*

**Creating a scheme for the outside of your home** is often harder than doing the same job on the inside. For a start, there's a lot of cladding, acres of roof, and fiddly bits to trip you up. Then you're up against our strong light quality which means colours can look very different than they do on the paint charts when you're sitting indoors.

Often the style of your home will dictate the types of Resene exterior colours you use: heritage tones for a villa, soft gelato shades for an Art Deco stucco cottage or brooding black for a contemporary masterpiece.

There are a surprising number of exterior features to consider when compiling a colour scheme. There's obviously the largest component – the main cladding material, which in itself can be split into various zones. Then there are the windows (again, these can become the site for various colours, especially with older homes like villas). The roof is a large surface area and often overlooked as having an important impact on the scheme. Always keep in mind, the steeper the pitch of the roof, the more of it will be visible.

## **For inspiration**

- Check out similar styles of houses in your neighbourhood and the colours they are painted in.
- Keep a scrapbook of ideas you love, so you get a feel for your own style.
- Browse through the pre-designed schemes on the Resene EzyPaint software (free from [www.resene.com/ezypaint](http://www.resene.com/ezypaint)), or investigate the array of colour swatches at Resene ColorShops. Bring a photo of your home and let the knowledgeable Resene staff help you choose.

If your house is an older character home, check out the Resene Heritage colour palette for colour inspiration. It also has a short but interesting look back at the typical styles of older homes in this country.

Always test your colour with a Resene testpot, as colours change depending on what they are painted onto and the quality of the light. Colours usually look much lighter outdoors. They also change if you put them beside other colours: a grey roof makes green walls look

fresher, and a high-gloss finish (rather than a low-sheen finish) renders a colour brighter. Contrasts make a colour scheme more interesting, but make sure you only highlight details if they deserve the focus. A bright red front door, yes, but maybe not an old garden shed.

Soft mushroom shades have been fashionable, but there's a move towards cleaner colours with greyer bases. Or you might tip those grey tones over into slatey blues like Resene El Nino

Resene  
Kitsch 

## *top tip*

A tried-and-true method for developing a colour scheme centres on three or four colours – one for the main body of the house, another for the trims and another for the roof. The fourth is an accent colour to create a striking front door. Fences can then be painted in either the main or trim colour.

– these sorts of colours always look great in a country like ours, surrounded by sea and with our clear blue skies.


### Is black the new white?

In recent years black exteriors have become popular, but they may not always be technically suitable. Dark colours absorb more of the sun's heat and can put stress on the cladding.

With any darker colour, consider using the Resene CoolColour range, formulated with special pigment technology to reflect more of the sun's energy. This helps to keep the coating and substrate cooler, reducing the likelihood of heat damage such as warping.

### *turn the page...*

and discover our schemes for various styles of houses. There's a scheme for everyone – from 'Nice and neutral', a 'Touch of colour' through to 'Colour lovers'.

 Resene  
Apple Green

