

habitat

plus



**whites and
*neutrals***

Colour your home with **Resene**
the paint the professionals use

the Whites & Neutrals collection

The Resene Whites & Neutrals collection is one of the most popular and comprehensive collections of all of those you will find at your local Resene ColorShop. Arranged over 28 handy palette cards, it showcases more than 330 colours from bright whites, through calming neutrals to moody darks.

Each palette card has 12 colours, often from the same colour family, so that you can easily contrast and compare your colour choices.

To further refine your choices, see the A4 colour sample sheets in the colour library at each Resene ColorShop and selected resellers.



Some products or services may not be offered in your area or country. Please check with your local Resene ColorShop or reseller for availability. Most Resene products can be ordered in on request though lead times and minimum order quantities may apply.

Colours are as close as the printing process allows. Always try a Resene testpot or view a physical colour sample before making your final choice.

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welcome

There's a reason why various 'white' and neutral paint colours top the list of most popular Resene colours each year. They're just so versatile.

While Resene is well-known for its daring fashion colour fandecks, the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection is the one that home decorators turn to again and again to create a baseline palette for their homes. There are 28 palette cards with 12 colours on each. Often, those colours are from the same colour 'family', and are variants of one colour. This makes it easier to build a colour scheme.

While many of the 'whites' in the collection are in demand, a wide range of mid-toned neutrals and darker tones are well represented in the collection from silvery greys, to warm taupes and moody blacks.

We show you the range of whites and neutral paint colours available, help you choose the right one for your project, how to add interest to a neutral scheme and give you suggestions of some on-trend accent colours to try.

Happy decorating!

The Resene and habitat teams

the
right *white*





Alabaster, chalk, ivory, cream... which is which? There are so many wonderful Resene whites to choose from.

All whites are not created equal... and that's particularly true with paint colour. When you're decorating, you'll discover a wealth of 'whites', with varying touches of yellow, green, brown or grey to turn them into a huge cast of interesting shades. In fact, Resene has hundreds of 'whites' in its colour collections.

There are many reasons for choosing white for your walls. White is a timeless colour that allows you to change out your furniture and accessories to ring in the fashion changes. White is an elegant colour, and gives a sense of refinement. It's a relaxing colour, which can help reduce visual busy-ness.

Do check your motivation though. Is white right for you or are you choosing it because you don't want to make a mistake with a stronger colour? Paint is inexpensive compared to other decorating options and it's easy to change. So if you do fancy a bolder colour, then go for it,

and simply change it when you tire of it.


Choosing to paint a room in white sounds easy and safe, but you can put just as much time and energy into choosing the right white, than you would with a bolder colour. The best place to start is with the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection, which is home to a host of whites as well as darker neutral colours – greys, beiges and blacks.

The Resene Whites & Neutrals collection is made up of 28 palette cards, with 12 individual colours on each card, often organised into colour 'families' or varying strengths of the one colour. Some of the colours have up to six strength variations, which comes in hugely handy when you are building a tonal colour scheme.

White and neutral paint colours are so popular that they dominate the Resene top 20 paint colour list each year.

The classics are still going strong, like Resene Spanish White and Resene Pearl Lusta. With their yellow base, these colours have the ability to lift a room and warm it visually.



 Resene Double Alabaster

Far left: Resene Double Alabaster in a project designed by hungerford+edmunds architects.



Like a chameleon

More than any other colour, whites and off-whites are influenced by other elements in the room. If you have off-white walls and a lot of green accessories, expect your walls to take on a green look. Use a strong blue rug or furniture, and your walls will pick up on the blue.

You can use this to your advantage. For example if you have a rich reddish timber floor that you find a bit overpowering, then using a cool white on the walls (one with a grey or green base) will diffuse the effect of the floor.

Different parts of the room also reflect light differently. An off-white used under a window will look darker than the same colour used on the opposite wall. An off-white used on the ceiling will look much darker than the same colour on the wall because there is less light reflected. Use a half or quarter strength of your wall colour on your ceiling to ensure the two are well balanced.

Resene
Alabaster

Resene
Quarter Thorndon Cream

Left: Resene Quarter Thorndon Cream in a project designed by Susie Cropper. **Right from top:** Print from Endemic World. Resene Alabaster in a kitchen created by homeowner Chris England.

Deciphering whites

Whatever type of white you're after, here's how to make the best use of the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection by understanding the paint codes.

Beneath each paint swatch is not just the name but a code which starts with a letter. That tells you the base colour of the paint. So Y is for yellow, BR for brown, G for green and N is for neutral (which means black, or rather grey once you put it with white).

Some paint colours cross from one base to another depending on their strength, for example, Resene Half Pearl Lusta's code starts with a Y but Resene Quarter Pearl Lusta starts with a G. The science of paint is intriguing.

The last three numbers of the colour code tell you where the colour sits on the colour wheel. Imagine red is at 0, then it moves into orange and yellow; green is at 180 then on it goes through blue and purple. So if you have two similar colours and one has 020 on the end and one has 180, this tells you that the 020 one is closer to the red part of the spectrum and the 180 one is closer to the greens. This is important with off-whites, as it's the subtle undertones that you notice when they are used in a room.





Warm vs cool whites

Ask yourself if you want the space to feel cooler, crisper, warmer or brighter? Using a cool white or a warm white will give you quite a different feel.

The red, orange, yellow and brown based whites are good for rooms that need warming up, say on the south side of the house, while those with a touch of grey and some of those with green or blue undertones are good for taking the visual heat out of north-facing rooms.

Resene Black White (grey-based) was the darling of the minimalist era for its cool architectural quality and has continued in popularity. Resene Alabaster is a favourite, and as a trim colour goes with just about any other paint colour.



*Resene Quarter
Wheatfield*

*Resene Double
Villa White*

There is also a distinct preference for warm versus cool whites depending on where you live. In warmer, northern areas of the country, grey whites are popular. But in cooler, southern climates, warm yellower whites are more commonly used.

Cool whites tend to suit more contemporary interiors which have lots of windows rather than older homes with smaller windows and less-than-perfect walls.

It's always best to try out a Resene testpot of your favourite colour or colours. Paint two coats on to a large piece of cardboard, leaving an unpainted border around the edge, and move the card around the space to view it at different times of the day and night.

Comparing whites side by side is misleading. You need negative or neutral space to understand the colour in your white, hence the advice to use samples with a paper-white border around the outside. View the large painted swatches at your Resene ColorShop in the in-store colour library to compare your white options. Place a piece of printer paper between them – this will help your eyes to see the subtle undertones.

The subtle undertones of off-whites combined with your lighting and furnishings can make the colour seem different to the colour chip, even though they are the identical colour. This is because the lighting, the amount of the colour and colour reflections from the furnishings can make your eyes view the colour differently.

Grey (cool) whites

We love our grey-edged whites. It seems that every house in the land has walls and trims painted in variations of Resene Alabaster or Resene Black White.

The beauty of these two colours is that they are 'soft' whites, so are easy to live with. They are also hugely versatile and complement most other colours well.

Using grey or stark whites doesn't mean you'll feel like you're living in a chilly bin. There are many ways to soften these whites – with texture, furnishings and coloured accessories.

Or you can be inspired by the trend for Scandi interiors and go a bit darker and choose a pale grey (Resene Triple Sea Fog, Resene Concrete or Resene Quarter Surrender). Some believe pale grey can be too cold for interiors but with the right warm or bright accessories, it looks sensational and sophisticated. Try it with accessories in terracotta or sand colours, or swampy and khaki greens.

Examples of grey whites: Resene Black White, Resene Alabaster, Resene Black Haze, Resene Merino, Resene Sea Fog, Resene House White, Resene Barely There, Resene White Pointer.





*Resene Quarter
Concrete*

Resene Concrete

*Resene Grey
Chateau*

top tip

You can vary the whites you use in a room but make sure they are all either warm or cool. For example, a bedroom with walls in Resene Thorndon Cream, trims in Resene Merino, a soft wheaten-coloured carpet, and lots of plumpy pillows in antique linen, and ivory coloured sheers on the windows will look delicious and luxurious.

Below left: Resene Black White in a bedroom by homeowner Chris England. **Below right:** Kitchen and walls in Resene Quarter Sea Fog by Trinity Interior Design. **Right:** Ascend fabrics from James Dunlop fabrics with walls in Resene Merino and decorative panels in Resene Quarter Black White. **Left:** Wild Wagon Co print from Endemic World.



Yellow (warm) whites

Warm or 'yellow' whites can range from rich buttery creams to subtle fleecy whites. There are many from the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection that are sophisticated, almost 'aged' whites, which can be used to visually warm a room without turning it too sickly or yellow. These are particularly good for south-facing rooms or those with lots of reflected green from trees or plants. Warm and aged whites are often best for older homes with character details and trims.

Warm whites also work well with earthy colours like warm browns, reds and ochres, so if your furnishings comprise warm hues, your paint colours probably should too.

Examples of yellow whites: Resene Pearl Lusta, Resene Spanish White, Resene Eighth Biscotti, Resene Quarter Solitaire, Resene Blanc, Resene Villa White, Resene Orchid White, Resene Quarter Tea, Resene Bianca.

Green (in between) whites

Green-edged whites tend to change with the light quality, appearing warm one minute and cool the next. Because green is made up of blue (traditionally a cool colour) and yellow (a warm one), these green-based whites have the ability to morph with the mood. They suit our often garden-based or green outlooks too, and our bright light quality.

Resene Quarter Sea Fog

Resene Black White

Resene Merino

Resene Quarter Black White

Examples of green whites: Resene Half Thorndon Cream, Resene Half Titania, Resene Quarter Linen, Resene Rice Cake, Resene Cararra, Resene Quarter Ash, Resene Quarter Joanna, Resene Quarter Wheatfield.



mid-toned neutrals

Next to white, soft mid-toned neutrals are the most popular wall colours. Ranging from creamy beige, through stony taupe to misty greys, these colours are easy to live with and hugely appealing.

They are colours that we often see in nature. Simply put, we're used to them, and they resonate with our basic instinct to be anchored to the earth.

These colours are calming, subtle and hugely versatile. You can dress them up or down, and change their look and style according to the accent colours or accessories you put with them.

These mid-range colours are so popular that Resene Tea – a complex, grown-up beige with hints of grey and green – has spent a decade in Resene's top 10 most popular paint colours list. It has many cosy neighbours in the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection: Resene Napa, Resene Akaroa, Resene Ash and Resene Pavlova, just for starters.

As with any colour, these mid-toned neutrals are subject to fashion and whim. At the turn of the century, warm shades of latte and parchment were more prevalent. Nowadays, greyer shades are popular (dubbed griege), like Resene Truffle and Resene Quarter

Friar Grey. Both are stony greys with a deep twist of warmth.

And the true greys like Resene Concrete or Resene Quarter Silver Chalice have come to the fore.

The many faces of mid-tone

As you look through the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection, you'll notice how the neutrals, especially those in the mid range, vary.

Shades of grey: crisp and urban, clean and cool – Resene Double Concrete, Resene Quarter Stack and Resene Surrender.

Greige, the in-between: for those who like their greys more subtle, see Resene Cloudy, Resene Half Taupe Grey, Resene Truffle and Resene Quarter Friar Grey.

Biscuit brown: warm and earthy, like having tea and toast, see Resene Bison Hide, Resene Napa and Resene Drought.


A hint of green: cool, yet not cold, see Resene Ash, Resene Tana and Resene Triple Thorndon Cream.

Golden hues: from deep creams to dusky ochre tones, see Resene Canterbury Clay, Resene Pavlova and Resene Haystack.



 Resene Half Friar Grey

 Resene Stack

 Resene Quarter Stack



Resene Concrete



Resene Drought

Left: Resene Quarter Stack walls and Resene Stack shelf; styled by Gem Adams. **Below left:** The Architects fabric collection from James Dunlop, with Resene Half Friar Grey walls. **Below right:** Resene Sandspit Brown in a project by Trinity Interior Design.



Resene Surrender



Resene Ash



Resene Truffle



Resene Haystack



Resene Napa

Resene Sandspit Brown 



Resene
Gravel

Resene
Oilskin

Resene
Swamp

Resene
New Denim
Blue

going dark

Many of us think of neutral as whites or pale colours but very dark colours can also be neutral. The classic example is, of course, black. These examples, mostly from the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection, highlight the different types of dark neutrals and their effects:

- **Blacks.** Just like whites, there are many, many different 'blacks'. Some have a touch of brown, some green and some blue.
- **Charcoals:** Such as Resene Gravel, Resene Double Stack and Resene Tuna. Flinty and sophisticated, these colours provide a cool, urban edginess.
- **Deep, deep brown:** Like Resene Bokara Grey, Resene Oilskin and Resene Mondo. If true black feels too severe and cool, these types of colours have a soothing warmth... like coffee or chocolate.
- **A touch of green:** Some of the darker neutrals in the Resene colour collections have an edge of green, making them earthy and interesting, for example Resene Swamp, Resene Tapa or Resene Masala. These colours give a more earthy twist to darker neutrals, and can look quite different from room to room depending on the light.
- **A hint of blue:** Close to the charcoals, these colours are steely and stormy, adding mystery and moodiness. Check out Resene New Denim Blue, Resene Coast and Resene Raven.

Ideal on their own or to anchor a scheme, dark neutrals provide a soulful backdrop for brighter, more intense feature colours. Add drama by using a sharp accent colour. Team dark neutrals with cream or crisp white trims. This works especially well with older homes, where skirtings, architraves and cornices will be highlighted by the contrast with smoky dark walls.

Dark colours make a room feel more intimate and cosy – great for bedrooms, media rooms or large living spaces. A far wall can appear closer when painted in a dark colour, or use a dark wall colour to offset a beautiful sideboard, mantelpiece, free-standing bath or upholstered chair.

Dark walls also work well in a matte finish rather than low-sheen, giving a rich velvety look. Try Resene SpaceCote Flat.

The right light

Make sure your lighting is up to the task. Dark walls absorb light, so you may need to beef up your lighting to compensate. Spreading the light around the room, rather than having one central ceiling fixture, achieves a more even effect and gives you flexibility.

Right: Resene Nocturnal walls and Resene Viktor floor; styled by Vanessa Nouwens. **Far right:** Resene Baltic Sea walls; styled by Gem Adams.

top tip

Make sure you use Resene paint as the base for your Resene colour, otherwise that colour you have agonised over just won't look right. Resene paints are renowned for their quality and coverage, whereas paints of lesser quality need more coats and time to achieve their true colour.

Resene Nocturnal

Resene Viktor

Resene Baltic Sea



did you know...

That if a full colour scheme of dark neutrals is too much, you can use varying shades of the same neutral in different rooms? The Resene Whites & Neutrals collection is handy for this, as varying strengths of the same colour are displayed on the same card.

tonal

colour schemes

Tonal or monochromatic colour schemes make great use of whites and neutrals. These schemes are where one colour is used in varying strengths for a harmonious look. This is an almost-foolproof way of developing a scheme.

Here, the Resene Whites & Neutrals collection really comes into its own, as up to six strengths of the one colour are shown on the same card. So you could, for example, use Resene Half Drought for the main living area, Resene Double Drought for bedrooms or a second living room, and Resene Eighth Drought for the ceiling and trims.

Of course, a completely tonal scheme can look a bit boring, so the trick is to add interest with accent colours, as well as texture and gloss levels – turn the page for more on this.

Left: Resene Quill Grey walls with Resene Quarter White Pointer trims and ceiling. **Right:** Resene Triple Black walls with trims in Resene Black White.



Levels of interest

1. For an elegant restful look, you could keep any furniture, fabrics and accessories in the same colour theme but play with texture. The curtains might be sheer or linen, the rug nice and knobby, the timber floor grainy, the cushions might have a self-pattern, the accessories might have lustre and the monochromatic artworks will have a pattern.

2. You can create an interesting twist on a tonal scheme by using what are called 'related' colours. This is easier to understand when you're talking about bolder colours, for example, red is close to rust is close to terracotta. But it can work well with neutral colours. So instead of slavishly using all variants of one colour, you might take a step sideways into one that's close by but slightly different. For example, Resene Rice Cake and Resene Thorndon Cream.

3. The next level would be to add a feature wall, or accessories in a very deep neutral that's an extension of the main scheme. If you have a mostly off-white scheme, you might add charcoal and black. They are not a colour as such, but add a touch of drama. Likewise, if your scheme is made up of soft greige, a deep brown-edged grey will add interest.

4. If you want even more interest, add an accent colour or two in your curtains, cushions, rug, artwork, accessories, furniture or a feature wall. Keep the ratio of this colour to about 10% of the overall look of a room, and try to continue it through the house in varying forms and uses for a cohesive look.

Resene
Quill Grey

did you know...

that in any scheme, tonal or otherwise, we often feel more comfortable when the floor is a darker colour and the ceiling is lighter? It's because that combination is more common in nature – the ground is darker, and the sky is lighter.

Resene
Quarter White Pointer

Resene
Black White

Resene
Triple Black White





adding texture, gloss and *pattern*

To really come alive, neutral and tonal colour schemes need texture and variations in gloss levels.

This can be from very subtle (a soft linen curtain) to more dramatic (a lambs wool cushion or chunky knit throw). It can involve glossy surfaces like glass-topped tables, high-gloss finished furniture or glass vases.

Rough textures tend to add warmth and intimacy to a room while glossy surfaces may make a space feel sleek and more aloof. A careful combination of both can look amazing.

Rough texture will deepen the colour of the object, while gloss will lighten and brighten it by reflecting the light.

As anyone who pores over home decorating magazines will know, you don't have to actually run your hand over that weathered timber or feel that cut pile carpet between your toes. Texture is also a visual sensation – we know what it will feel like just by looking.


Pattern


Pattern can be used in mostly neutral schemes to provide similar visual relief to texture. Wallpapers, fabrics, cushions, rugs, artworks and accessories are all ripe opportunities to add pattern.


As a general rule, larger patterns are visually calmer, and smaller ones are visually busier.


Any pattern in a room will be naturally eye-catching so on the one hand, pattern is great to perk up a lifeless corner, but on the other, be wary of overdoing it.

While mixing patterns can be done with a careful eye (often by using common colours), it's often best to stick to one style – all florals, all tropical and leafy, all geometric.

Resene
Alabaster 

Resene
Quarter Rice Cake 

Resene
Quarter Delta 

Resene
Delta 

Resene Colorwood
Pitch Black 

top tip

To create great texture for your walls, check out the many anaglypta wallpapers available at Resene ColorShops. The textural patterns range from subtle and natural, to quirky and geometric. Paint over the pattern in your chosen Resene colour.

Clockwise from top left: Resene Quarter Rice Cake in a design by Nobbs Radford Architects. Resene Colorwood Pitch Black wall with Resene Delta and Resene Quarter Delta tables, styled by Claudia Kozub. Resene Alabaster in a room by Indie Home Collective.



Paint gloss levels

Texture and visual relief isn't just about the furnishings. The gloss or sheen level of the paint you choose can also affect the way the colour looks. A flat paint will make the colour look muddier and denser, while a gloss finish will make it look cleaner and brighter. You can use this to your advantage by varying the gloss level to make a neutral colour palette more interesting and to highlight specific areas of the room.

There's a trend for chalky, more matte finishes with paint. It's a look easily achieved with Resene SpaceCote Flat. Flat paints have a rich velvety look and will hide minor imperfections in your walls.

Flat finishes tend to show the marks more than higher sheen finishes, however, so if you have a busy household with children or pets, Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen may be a better option.

An easy approach is to use your favourite Resene white in a flat or low sheen finish (Resene SpaceCote Flat, Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen or Resene Zylone Sheen) on your walls, teamed with trims in the same colour but in a semi-gloss finish (use Resene Lustacryl) and a flat finish for your ceiling (Resene SpaceCote Flat). It's subtle and elegant.

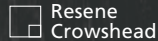
Left: The Essentials wallpaper collection (218020), available from Resene ColorShops. **Right:** Resene Colorwood Greywash floor.

Wood stains

A dominant element in many interior and exterior schemes is timber. Loved for its organic good looks and varying grain, it's a material that can be enhanced by Resene stains.

Resene stains from either the Woodsman (exterior use) or Colorwood (interior use) ranges can be used to add colour and depth while still letting the beauty of the grain show through – visual texture at its best.

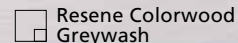
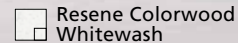
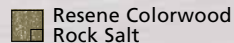
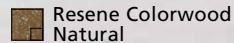
Particularly popular for exterior timber claddings are darker stains such as Resene Pitch Black or Resene Crowshead while indoor, current trends have seen Resene Colorwood Whitewash and Greywash used on both floors and furniture. Or go for warm stain colours like Resene Natural or Resene Walnut. For a blonded look, choose Resene Rock Salt.



Paint-on texture

Resene has a range of specialist finishes that can add texture to your walls (or accessories like plant pots). Resene Sandtex gives a lovely gritty finish, and is painted on in a criss-cross method, making it easy to get the right effect.

There are also Resene Paint Effects products that can be used with your Resene colour combination to create distressed, whitewash, limewash, French wash, concrete and weathered effects that give the illusion of texture and age.



which direction?



Resene
Biscotti

Resene
Black Haze

Resene
Half Spanish
White

Resene
Half Fossil

The trend to use one colour throughout a house as an ‘anchor’ neutral has been going strong for some years. But why does that one colour look so different in each of the rooms? It’s all to do with which direction the room faces: north, south, east or west.

Colour is not equal, unchanging and well behaved. This is why colour seen in different rooms responds to the axis of light and why that colour looks totally divine in some rooms... and horrible in others. It also explains why at certain times of the day the colour morphs into a monster and bears little resemblance to the one we carefully chose.

Natural light is not well behaved either. We can know intellectually that the walls, the ceiling and sometimes the floor have been painted in exactly the same colour. But late in the afternoon, the low westerly sun is throwing light and shade across the floor and washing the walls. Suddenly, the colour on the floor appears different from the ceiling, and from the window walls where the shadows are deeper. The far wall glows with reflected sunlight.

In bright daylight, yellow-based or warm whites will appear even warmer, while cool whites will look crisp and clean. At twilight, green-based or cool whites come into their own,

and at nightfall, warm whites will appear more intense.

If you want to use the same neutral colour throughout the house, vary its strength to cater for the different light qualities of each room. South and north-facing rooms usually work better with deeper versions of a colour while east and west rooms use the lighter variants. Accenting with colourful accessories (and mirrors in darker rooms) can change how a colour is seen and help it be ‘forgiven’ if it doesn’t look as good as it does within another space.

If you want to use a true white on the walls, try soft furnishings in pale greys, charcoals and blacks, and metallic silver or pewter tones as this helps draw the eyes away from walls, keeping the scheme from looking too cold.

Room by room

In south-facing rooms used during the day, it pays to use warm neutrals. No amount of pale tints or white will make the room appealing because the natural light aspect is cool, grey or sour. Try Resene Quarter Solitaire, Resene Double Bianca, Resene Biscotti or Resene Eighth Drought which all have a subtle orange or warm beige undertone.

Cooler, denser whites will always work best in north-facing rooms. Because of our propensity for huge windows and skylights that allow plentiful sun (and glare) any very warm white will only accentuate the heat. Resene Concrete, Resene Black Haze and Resene Double Black White are good examples of colours that work.

Complex neutrals work best in east-facing rooms illuminated by bright early morning light. Because easterly light is so cool

and clear, it may emphasise green-based or cool whites. The walls in east-facing rooms will be shadowy from mid morning onwards. Try Resene Half Spanish White which stays light even when the sun passes and doesn't develop too much green undertone. Or try Resene Half Tea.

West facing rooms that receive the low rays of sun will benefit from mid-toned muted colours as the rosy natural light will enhance cream, beige and taupe until they turn peach or terracotta. Look at using colours like Resene Half Fossil, Resene Perfect Taupe and Resene Eighth Malta

Exceptions to the light rule


A green cast may appear in rooms where natural light is filtered through trees growing close to the house..

Light coming through opaque glass will soften any colour. The same colour seen in a room with floor to ceiling picture windows will intensify. In tropical countries, pure white will take on an almost fluorescent tone.

In cold countries, natural light is filtered through layers of mist and cloud, and natural colours are grey based. If the same colours are used in countries with clear natural light they can look either 'dirty' or much brighter.

Extremely bright glary rooms may benefit from a flat (matte) paint finish, such as Resene SpaceCote Flat. Very dim rooms, and hallways, may benefit from low sheen or higher sheen paint finishes, such as Resene SpaceCote Low Sheen and Resene Lustacryl (semi-gloss).


Right: Resene Ecru White walls.

Resene
Half Ecru White 



test your colours

The best way to see how colours react in different rooms is to test them. Using Resene testpots, paint two coats of your chosen colour onto a piece of A2 card (available from Resene ColorShops) leaving an unpainted border around the edges so your eye focuses on the reality of the colour. Move the card from wall to wall and from room to room, watch how it changes not only with the light but against other colours in the room. To see how one colour will look on all four walls, roll the card so the colour is innermost and look down into it. This will give you an idea of how the colour will intensify once it is on all walls. If you don't like the effect that you see, talk to the staff at your Resene ColorShop about alternatives.

Resene
Half Joanna 



how light affects *colour*

You've been to your local Resene ColorShop and chosen the perfect soft white for your living room. You get home, turn on the lights and... that white paint chip now looks dingy. What happened? It's all about the lights. How colours appear can depend on the type of artificial light you have.

Those at the store are probably fluorescent, and therefore give a clean, bright light. Or the store might have south-facing windows that bring in a cool light. At home, your incandescent bulbs may throw a much warmer cast.

Likewise, your elegantly cool white walls might turn dull and shadowy. Or your creamy walls might gain a distinctly orange hue in the evening.

Artificial light sources

Incandescent light bulbs are the mostly commonly found in our houses. They emit a warm, yellow light similar to that of candlelight so will make warm whites and other warm colours more vivid, but if a low wattage is used, it will mute cool whites and colours. They cast a brighter area of light close to the bulb so can leave corners of the room in shadow.

Left: Resene Sea Fog hallway by Trinity Interior Design.

LED bulbs are a great energy-efficient lighting and are being increasingly used in new homes and renovations. They are available in both cool and warm white light. Look for lights with a 90-plus colour rendering index to get a truer result.

Halogen bulbs impart a bright, sparkling white colour that resembles natural light the most closely. They become very hot when used for prolonged periods, and are more expensive than both incandescent and LED in the long run.

Fluorescent lights are the opposite of incandescent, giving off a cool, blue light. This is similar to natural light from the south. 'Warm' fluorescent bulbs are also available.

Light combinations

Of course, it's not all about the type of bulb but about where you put them. The right combination of lights and light sources (pendants, floor lamps, recessed etc), can make or break your interior scheme. There's general or ambient light, task lighting for specific areas, and accent lighting for added drama – like an uplight on a wall, or a standard lamp throwing a pool of light.

As a general rule, we need less light in living rooms, dining areas and bedrooms because we want greater ambiance – although if you regularly read books, magazine or newspapers in these areas, make sure there is a good lamp beside your chair. Kitchens need good bright, even light so that we can safely prepare and cook our food. And clean up afterwards. Bathrooms and studies also need good bright general lighting and good task lighting.

When light tricks our sight

Most of us will have experienced the scenario of taking a pair of apparently black socks out of the drawer, then realising later that one of them is blue. It doesn't mean you're colour blind – it's a common phenomenon called sample metamerism.

Incandescent light bulbs emit very few short blue wavelengths, which makes it hard to differentiate between dark blue and black. Fluorescent light emits more short-wavelength light, so it's easier to distinguish the two colours. When two identical colour samples look vastly different when viewed under different lights, it's called illuminant metamerism.


Then there's observer metamerism – the fact that individuals perceive colour slightly differently. Another is geometric metamerism – the different appearance of colours when seen from different angles, distances and light positions. One reason why men and women often see colour differently is that the distance between a woman's eyes is usually slightly less than a man's.

Metamerism also affects the way we view paint charts, which is why Resene uses actual Resene paint on colour charts, to give you a more accurate colour sample than ink can.


The amount of colour can also affect the way we see it. The more of a colour there is, usually the more intense it will seem. It will also be influenced by adjacent colours, so if you paint your sample direct onto a green wall, you can expect the off-white to pick up the green and look decidedly green.


top tip:

Wherever possible, it is best to develop a lighting plan at the same time as your paint scheme. For example, if you decide to paint any of the rooms in a dark colour, you are likely to need more lighting than if your walls were pale and would therefore reflect the light. If you are moving from a very dark colour scheme to a light and bright one, you may need to reduce the lighting or the light bulb strength to avoid it being too glarey.


Resene Alabaster 

Resene Sea Fog 

Resene
Alabaster 

Resene
Delta 

Resene Colorwood
Pitch Black 

Resene
Half Delta 



using *accents*

Very few of us want to live in all-white interiors. It would be a little boring, and imagine the stress levels every time the dog or kids came near.

You might love your white walls and kitchen cabinetry, and have a delicious white leather sofa, but by adding other accent colours, you can turn boring into awesome.

What feeling or flavour are you trying to achieve. Is it casual or more formal? Elegant or beachy? Bright and breezy or restrained and architectural?

Develop a decorating 'mantra' of about five words that fits what you're trying to achieve and recite it to yourself every time you're choosing a colour, or product for your home.

Are you working around existing furniture and furnishings – do you need to take the colour of these into account? Chances are your room will include timber of some type, on the floor or in the furniture, which becomes an accent colour to factor in.

When it comes to accents, you'll often find you gravitate towards a particular colour. Have a look around at the objects and accessories you have already collected and you'll see it's true – do they have a common colour or style theme?


You might love yellow, pink or purple – but they're probably not the type of colour you would paint every wall. They can, however, be modified and used as accent colours in your interiors. Paint a plant pot dusky ochre, add an icy pink cushion, or buy a rug in muted mushroom lavender tones.


Keep it simple

Just as you would a tonal colour scheme, sticking to one or two families of colour for your accents is wise. Otherwise, your house may end up looking a bit hodge-podge. The exception is for children's rooms where you might go all out with a colour that you wouldn't have in your living room.

So, if ochres and browns are your thing, let a range of these colours ripple through the house. Try to keep them in the same style of colour, i.e. all rich terracottas and golds, or all pebble-brown and soft suede colours.

Likewise, you might use blue-grey accents that range in strength from duck egg blue curtains in the living room to a dusky midnight blue feature wall in the bedroom, and sea-foam blue walls in a study nook.

Resene Half Duck Egg Blue 

Resene Passport 

Introduce your colour at the front door, then let it flow through the house. You might have only subtle touches in one room (a more formal lounge or master bedroom), then more of it in other rooms (the family room).

Use the same principles for any pattern you are using. You might have a tropical wallpaper as a feature wall in one room, and botanical motifs on your cushions in another.

The best part about using coloured accents is that you can easily ring the changes, and in small ways. It doesn't take much to repaint that ink-blue wall into a tranquil watery blue. It will give the room a new look but still fit with your other sea-inspired accessories.

Or you can move objects and cushions from one room to another, knowing that the over-riding scheme will allow them to look good.

Left: Resene Alabaster and Resene Colorwood Pitch Black walls. with Resene Delta and Resene Half Delta tables. **Right:** Resene Half Duck Egg Blue walls with Resene Passport shelf. Both styled by Claudia Kozub.



Resene
Armadillo

Resene
Albescent White

Resene
Quarter Rice Cake

Resene
Desperado

Resene
Rumour Has It

Resene
Entourage

Resene
Frozen


Resene
Black White



Perfect partners for white

If you want to go one step further than an all-white interior, there are some classic colour partners to white.

- **Black:** A black and white scheme is a classic one and can form the basis for completely different interior styles. Add geometric patterns, some bold accent colours, and glossy accessories for a glam Art Deco look. Choose downy cream sofas, rich oak floors, vanilla-coloured walls and black accents for a sophisticated upmarket look. Or go for pale timber, house plants, bone-white walls, and deepest black (try Resene All Black) for a Scandi sensibility.
- **Grey:** Greys of any depth have become popular alternatives to the black and white look. Pale silvery grey (for example, Resene Concrete) and mid French grey (try Resene Half Stack) both look great with crisp cool whites, while charcoals (for example, Resene Steel Grey) are best softened with slightly warmer whites.
- **Rich browns and timber:** With terracotta, ochre and deep bronze on the popularity rise, warm rich white walls (try Resene Quarter Spanish White) are the perfect backdrop for such tones. Introduce some organic pieces and textural elements, and this is a scheme that will warm your soul.

Resene
Quarter Thorndon Cream 

- **Pale blues:** White and blue has been the basis of many sea-inspired or country schemes, which of course suits the local situation well. Think whitewashed furniture (use Resene Colorwood Whitewash), pale timber floors, icy or duck egg blue walls (for example Resene Quarter Frozen or Resene Duck Egg Blue), and crisp white trims and ceilings (go for Resene Alabaster).
- **Botanic greens:** Green-based whites are a wonderful foil for a land full of bush, pasture and gardens. And with plants being re-embraced as an indoor accessory, an interior based on white with punches of painted or 'living' green will create a calming, refreshing space. Some of the lovely verdant greens from the Resene collections include Resene Crusoe, Resene Groovy and Resene Parsley. If you are after a more subtle look, check out the more swampy or khaki greens.

Far left: Resene Armadillo feature ceiling designed by Nobbs and Radford Architects. **Left:** Resene Albescent White walls over Resene Anaglypta 2011 (RD3360) wallpaper with Resene Desperado console and Resene Entourage and Resene Rumour Has it stools and bowl. **This page, from top:** Resene Black White walls with Resene Frozen feature headboard shelf, styled by Claudia Kozub. Resene Quarter Thorndon Cream walls, designed by Susie Cropper.

Resene
Brown Sugar

Resene
Duck Egg Blue

Resene
Parsley

Resene
All Black



on the outside

White and other pale neutrals are often a go-to choice for the outside of a house. They're easy on the eye and sit happily in both urban and more natural situations. There's even a colour called Resene House White, which many painters of long-standing will tell you is the perfect grey-edged white for exterior use.

For exteriors, it's often best to stay clear of bright whites. Our intense sun in this part of the world can make pure white quite blinding to look at. You and your neighbours may end up having to wear sunglasses, even when the sun isn't shining.

Use the light reflectance value (LRV) that is handily noted on the back of Resene paint chips to guide you. Any colour with an LRV of higher than 85% may be too bright for exterior use unless your house sits in a shady wooded dell.

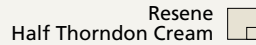
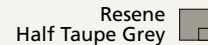
Our bright light quality will also make any colour look far paler outside than it does inside. If you have any doubts about the strength of the colour, err on the side of caution and go a shade or two darker. So choose Resene Half Tapa rather than Resene Eighth Tapa, for example.



When you're choosing an exterior colour scheme, consider the setting. Grey-based neutrals, like Resene Concrete, Resene Silver Chalice and Resene Delta, would look smart in an urban setting, whereas more brown or green edged neutrals like Resene Sandstone and Resene Ash, might suit a rural or more natural setting.

You're going to buy a lot of paint for an exterior, so it's even more important to test your colour choice first. Buy Resene testpots in your favourite colours and paint a large piece of card leaving a white border around the edge. Pin it up on both the shady and the sunny side of the house. Always paint two coats and allow it to fully dry to get a true colour rendition.

Clockwise from top left: Resene Double Gravel weatherboards in a house by Jennian Homes Coromandel. Resene Thorndon Cream weatherboards, Resene Eighth Thorndon Cream trims, Resene Triple Thorndon Cream sills and Resene Shuttle Grey veranda boards, designed by LAD Architecture. Resene Half Masala, Resene Half Taupe Grey and Resene Fuscous Grey, designed by hungerford+edmunds architects.






top tip

If you are going for a dark neutral house, remember to ask for Resene CoolColour paint. It reflects more of the sun's UV than a standard version of the colour, protecting the paint and the cladding by minimising heat stress and potential damage.

Resene
Double Gravel 






Resene
Bleached Grey 

did you know...

that Resene has a range of concrete finishing products to help keep your concrete looking good or enhance its appearance – from Resene Concrete Clear to Resene Concrete Stain? This is Resene Bleached Grey from the Resene Concrete Stain range.

Resene
Foundry 



The details

Bright light quality will also reduce contrast, so as well as going for a darker shade, opt for a larger contrast between, for example, your weatherboard and trim colours. Traditionally, timber trims and joinery are painted in white or off-white to off-set any bolder colours used on the cladding. A modern alternative for traditional houses is to go all white, and let the decorative elements of fretwork and balustrades provide the visual interest.

If you have a modern house with aluminium joinery or are building from scratch and using aluminium, you will find that the standard range of powder-coat colours is limited and some are very distinctive. Distinctively coloured joinery limits what colour changes you or other owners of your house can make in future so a neutral coloured metal window may be best. Ask the joinery manufacturer for larger metal samples rather than relying on small samples from brochures or a website.

In the garden


Of course, paint colour choice doesn't end on the walls of your house. Fences, decks and other garden features usually need to be painted too.

Boundary fences can be treated in a number of ways. Many homeowners prefer to make a feature of the front fence, while letting side and rear fences be less showy. The colour of a front fence should be in style with your house, so you might go for a white picket or tongue-and-groove capped fence for an older character home,


painted the same colour as the window trims. Or you may go for a smart slatted fence in moody black for a modern home.

If you have planted garden beds or hedges near your perimeter fences, black or almost-black fence paint or stain, such as Resene All Black or Resene Pitch Black, is a good choice. Black fences will recede and therefore give the garden the appearance of being larger – your eye will find it tricky to tell the difference between the plant shadows and the edge of the property. Black also offsets the verdant greens and other foliage colours.

If you use white or pale colours near plants, you may be in for higher maintenance as the paint work will show the dirt more easily.

 Resene Sea Fog

 Resene Crowshead

 Resene Spanish White



Far left: Resene Woodsman Crowshead fence. **Left:** Resene Spanish White screen with Resene Woodsman Crowshead deck and fence; designed by Flourish Garden Concepts. **Right:** Resene Sea Fog house renovated by Ardmore Architects.





get decorating

Try out your favourite colours

Testpots are the best way to try out your colour choices. Available at your Resene ColorShop and reseller, or order online at www.resene.com/testpots.

Thousands of Resene colours are also available as A4 screenprinted swatches, known as drawdowns. You can order these from the Resene website, www.resene.com/drawdowns or browse through the in-store library of swatches at Resene ColorShops and resellers.

Find your nearest Resene ColorShop or reseller

Simply visit www.resene.com/colorshops or call 0800 737 363 (NZ) or 1800 738 383 (Australia).


Find the right paint for your project

See the Resene Recommended paint systems brochure for the right paints to use on your home projects, inside and out. Pick up a free copy at your Resene ColorShop or reseller or view on the Resene website, www.resene.com/recommendedpaints.

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Resene Half
Pavlova 

 Resene
Double Masala

Need more colour advice?

Try out the Resene Ask a Colour Expert service at www.resene.com/colourexpert.

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Get more inspiration

For gorgeous home projects, themes and more colour ideas, go to www.habitatbyresene.com.

For more paint and decorating ideas, how to projects and videos, visit the Resene website www.resene.com.

Remember you only get authentic Resene colours when you use Resene tinters in Resene paint bases. Resene decorative tinters with no added VOCs and the true Resene colour formulations are unique and only available from Resene. So make sure you insist on genuine Resene products and tinters for your project.

Resene 
Quarter Fossil



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