

THE KNOW-HOW ON PAINT COLOUR

Avoid the big mistakes by keeping to the three main rules.

Even the smallest houses are big, so it's not surprising choosing colours can seem daunting. There are a few rules that can be followed to make choosing exterior colours much easier.

The truth is, many people make the process much harder than it really is.

The biggest mistake people make is to try to highlight too many features. This 'picking out' in contrasting colours leads to colour scheming headaches, too many colours and an end result that can look amateurish. Simple is best.

The aim is to give the house a designer look, no matter what the style of building; whether a timber cottage or a neo Georgian rendered mansion, There are three main rules to follow for the DIYer.

1

Limit the number of colours to three. The more colours you have, the less likely you are to get a harmonious looking scheme, leave the multi-coloured exteriors to professionals.



2

Don't pick out anything that is not a thing of beauty. Downpipes and gutters should not be highlighted. They are practical building requirements not embellishments.

3

Stay within a neutral, stony palette. If choosing pastels go for greyish or brownish shades. It's rare that a brightly coloured house will be an asset to the street. Subtlety is the key for exteriors.



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PUTTING THE COLOURS TOGETHER IS A THREE STEP PROCESS

a

DECIDE ON THE TRIM LOOK YOU PREFER.



The same colour but in a glossier sheen level gives a very minimal, uncluttered look. It's the easiest option, you can't go wrong and it's the most modern thinking.



White or light trim gives the building a fresh look, the windows appear to be larger, this choice gives a 'happy' look to the house.



The trim in a darker colour than the walls gives a more formal look, the trim lines are quite strong and windows appear more closed-in.

b

NOW CHOOSE YOUR THREE COLOURS.

The world is your oyster. Inside the house your existing Colourway (see page 12) determined your paint colours. Outside, you are free to choose. Drive around the streets, look at houses and take shots of schemes that work.

c

DECIDE ON COLOUR PLACEMENT

Which will be the trim, wall and accent colours? Which will be the fence? The lightest of the three shades would be a good choice.