



How to Choose a Paint Color You Love

I am asked all the time how to pick color. I'm sure there is some scientific formula but honestly, I just pick what I like. I know some people are terrified of making a mistake, but there are very few mistakes in life that will cost you less than \$60. Here are my top 5 tips for choosing a paint color you love.

1. Get your color inspiration in your home. What's the one thing that makes you happy just looking at it? It could be a throw pillow, a rug, or artwork. Use that color as inspiration for selecting your paint color. What colors do you respond to – cool or warm? Bold or soft? Do you like different colors in every room or the same throughout your house?
2. Don't buy paint the first time you go to the store. Take your inspiration color with you and match it to the swatches on the shelves. While you're there, grab a few of those cute little paint pots.
3. Paint 4-6 large pieces of poster board and tape them around the room. Live with it for as long as you want before making a commitment. The bonus: you don't muck up your walls with a bunch of paint splotches.
4. Don't go cheap. Cheap paint, rollers and brushes will not save you any money. Neither will not properly prepping your walls and trim. Plan to spend 3/4 of the time for "painting" prepping your walls. And, buy the best paint you can afford. I'm a huge fan of Benjamin Moore Aura. But Pittsburgh Paint and Valspar also make good paint for a lot less. For rollers and brushes, I only used Purdy.
5. Don't freak out if it doesn't look like you expected. It may take a few days (or weeks) but just live with it for a while before doing anything drastic.

I know there are people who are terrified at the thought of picking anything other than off-white or taupe. That's okay! For inspiration, check out my projects on the Locust Grove Designs Facebook page. Tell me you saw my article in Your Hometowne, and I'll send you a Pottery Barn paint chip fan deck!

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