

Accent any room by blending one colour with another

Trends, more often than not, inspire the creative choices we make in our day-to-day lives. For example, maybe you were excited by something you saw in a magazine, in a friend's home, or on a Pinterest board and you adapted it yourself. It works the same for home décor. Translating a trend doesn't have to be daunting

or an expensive feat. If you want something budget friendly that will still make a statement, an eye-catching paint project is an inexpensive solution with the biggest potential for change.

The trick is to focus on a trend that really packs a punch but requires minimal effort. Take, for example, painting the trim and moulding the same colour as the walls. White trim can sometimes break up a wall visually, but matching the trim elongates the wall for a continuous, stately appearance.

Another "no fuss no muss" trend popping up everywhere is the ombré effect for an accent wall. The ombré wall, a surface treatment that sees the gradual blending of one colour to another, can be a bold or subtle look that can easily be adapted into the home. Picking a trend is one thing but choosing the right paint colours to showcase is another. That does take time, but this year PARA Paints is making the process that much easier with its 2015 Centennial Trends Palette, a carefully curated collection of colours that celebrates the company's 100th anniversary.

"We've taken some of the most influential colour trends from the past 100 years and put them together in a palette that will give interior decorators and expert home DIYers enough inspiration to keep busy all year round," says Garry Belfall, senior brand manager at PARA Paints. "Pick a trend, pick some paint and you might find that you'll be someone's source of inspiration."

Apply these tips for creating perfectly-blended ombré walls:

- Choose a rich colour that has plenty of shade (this will help later on with the fading process) and that complements the base colour of your wall.
- Paint the bottom half of your wall with a thick band of the paint.
- While the wall is still wet, use a spray bottle filled with water and spray it on the top quarter of paint.
- Use a large natural sea sponge to spread, paint and fade up the wall, using the sponge to blend as you go.

www.newscanada.com



This vivid ocean blue ombré wall features PARA Paints' Furby Fuzz (PF63).



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Hosting an Open House this Weekend

OPEN HOUSE

Tips for a successful open house

Hosting an open house is a valuable exercise in the home selling process, so it is important to do it right, says Costa Pouloupoulos, president of the Ontario Real Estate Association. "Just as visitors are expected to follow certain etiquette when entering an open house, hosts of open houses have their own set of rules to follow."

To leave a good impression with visitors, Pouloupoulos recommends the following tips to homeowners hosting an open house:

Leave: Visitors won't feel as comfortable exploring the home with you present. If you can't leave, try to be as inconspicuous as possible to give visitors an opportunity to experience the home.

No pets: Cats, dogs and other animals should be out of the house and any pet smells should be eliminated as much as possible. Any visible cages and pet dishes should appear spotless.

Keep it clean: A clean home suggests that the home is well cared for.

Clear the drive: Give your visitors somewhere to park, especially if street parking is not available or hard to come by.

More information is available at www.wedothehome-work.ca.

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