

Home & Garden

More expensive paint will cost less in the long run

A colour scheme can dramatically change a room or your entire home.

Even without changing expensive furniture or carpeting, a fresh infusion of new paint colour can transform the most ordinary room into an inviting living space.

Since colour is a very personal choice, start your painting scheme with colours you enjoy: colours such as those found in your existing or new furnishings and artwork.

Look for ideas in magazines and browse decorating centres for colour scheme ideas.

Look at paint samples in your own home during the day in natural light and at night under incandescent lighting. You may be surprised at the change in colour due to the different lighting.

Paint colour can be light or dark, creating warm or cool, bright or subdued moods. The particular colour scheme will set the mood for

the entire room, so be sure to choose colours that capture the feeling you want to convey.

Paint Finishes

Paint is available in a variety of finishes, ranging from flat latex to gloss enamel.

Gloss enamels dry to a shiny, reflective surface and are used for surfaces that will be washed often like bathrooms and kitchens.

Flat paints are most commonly

used for wall and ceiling applications in family rooms and bedrooms.

The two main types of paints are oil-based and water-based or latex.

Oil-based is a very durable paint but it requires solvents for cleanup.

New developments in latex paints have made them as durable as oil-based paints. Latex paints clean up with soap and water.

High washability is a feature of quality paint, whether it be oil or water-based.

The pigments in bargain paints may chalk and wash away with mild scrubbing.

Paint coverage listed on the label of quality paint should be about 330 square feet per gallon.

Bargain paints may initially cost less but sometimes require two or even three coats to cover the same area as a slightly more expensive quality paint.

Tools for painting

Most painting jobs can be done with a few quality tools.

It is a good idea to purchase two or three premium brushes, a sturdy paint pan that can be attached to a stepladder and one or two good rollers.

With proper maintenance and cleanup, these tools will last for years and perform better than the cheaper alternatives.

All-purpose brushes blend polyester, nylon and animal bristles that perform well with a variety of paints.

Choose a three-inch straight-edged wall brush, a two-inch straight-edged trim brush and a tapered sash brush for the most common application.

Rollers should have a wire frame

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