



*Great Ideas
Come in
Small Packages*

Color Cures for Winter Doldrums

The gray light of winter can be a strong motivation for infusing your rooms with color. Colored spaces can create visual energy, stimulate conversation or enhance serenity. If practicality is your primary concern, consider a cool palette of green or blue or purple. For example, gray on gray lined upholstery used with silver /chrome accents and lavender walls will conceal pet hair.

Have you got a Seventies neutral room that looks drab? Café au lait and chocolate browns are enlivened with the introduction of fuschia and pink accessories in patterned fabrics. Start on a small scale by changing lampshades or adding colored pillows then move on to painting an accent wall. Remember that grouping accessories in the same red color family (pink, red, orange, and wine) will energize an otherwise neutral room. Celadon green and topaz used with espresso brown are good colors for a sophisticated room.

Using bright flowers and table linens with your dinnerware in new color combinations is an easy way to "try out" a new color scheme. If you like what you see, change the seat cushions and wall color to complete the room.

Want to update a blue and white room? When these cool colors are paired with tobacco brown and camel pillows, throws and area rugs, the result is a relaxed look. The use of graphic or geometric prints instead of floral prints finishes the room in a style that is au courant.

Use color in unexpected places:

- Paint the back wall of your bookshelves a contrasting color.
- Install an unusual sink or creative wall covering in a guest bath to add spark to a small space.
- Pair a painted piece of furniture with a contrasting colored piece of upholstered furniture.
- To enhance soundproofing and to create a sense of elegance, you can use fabric to cover your walls. This treatment is best suited for rooms free of moisture and away from bright sunlight. Like faux painting, the best results are achieved by working with a professional with lots of experience.

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