

# Classic Neutrals And Bold Colors Create A Dynamic Duo

(NAPSA)—When decorating a home, one rule applies—you can hardly go wrong with the classics. Subtle neutrals are still the most-desired shades in the color palette. Neutrals, such as taupes, beiges and whites, add visual impact and architectural interest to a room, especially when used to contrast more vivid colors. When used alone, these colors create a feeling of elegance and clean simplicity.

“More than any other color family, neutrals add light and the appearance of space to a room. They’re able to completely revitalize rooms with both traditional and modern looks,” says Barbara Richardson, director of color marketing for ICI Paints, maker of the Glidden paint brand. “Don’t be afraid to experiment with neutrals to freshen up a room or serve as a clean canvas for stronger décor elements in the home.”

Richardson suggests the following ideas for effectively adding neutral colors into home décor:

**Lighten Up:** Most homeowners have one room they find difficult to decorate. It may feel cramped, dark and completely uncomfortable—such as a family room that doesn’t get any sun during the day or a bedroom that seems the size of a closet. It’s relatively easy to create the illusion of extra space or light with a neutral color palette.

To instantly lighten up rooms, add a neutral paint shade with an undertone of yellow to the walls, such as Glidden’s Shell White. For a space that seems claustrophobic, use a neutral with cool undertones on walls at the far side of the room. Colors such as Air Castle or Barcelona Rain draw the eye farther into the room. To further create a sense of openness, paint low ceilings in neutral, light colors for the feeling of extra height.



Neutral paint colors create a fresh and modern looking kitchen.

**Create an Appetizing Kitchen:** The kitchen is a focal point for the home and a light and open space is welcoming to family and friends. If your kitchen isn’t as inviting as you’d like, try incorporating neutrals into the color scheme. According to Richardson, it’s one of the quickest and easiest ways to give any space a fresh look. First, prepare the cabinets with a primer specifically suited for cabinetry. Then paint them a deep shade of beige such as Brushwood or a darker shade such as Intercoastal. Next, select a subtle white, such as Wings of a Dove, for the walls. The resulting contrast will create a kitchen that looks fresh and thoroughly modern.

**Mix and Match:** Neutrals are most effective and dramatic when used to accent deeper, richer colors. For instance, if your bathroom features elegant marble, dark wood flooring or richly col-

ored accessories, Richardson suggests creating balance and delicacy with a lavender-toned neutral such as Belladonna.

Shades from Glidden’s “Classic & Neutral” palette can also be effectively combined with hues from other color collections. Pair a lively red, such as Drumbeat on the walls with a neutral shade as a trim accent, for a family room with sleek leather furniture and contemporary décor.

It’s possible to mix and match neutral shades as well. If you’re envisioning a kitchen or bathroom that’s entirely composed of whites and creams, Richardson recommends using three or four different neutral colors on the walls, trim and furnishings. This combination will create a subtle, antique feel that’s less harsh than a pure shade of white.

Discover other creative ideas for home paint projects and more information at [www.glidden.com](http://www.glidden.com).