



My Go-2-Guy Handyman Services

Phone: (416) 524-9177

E-mail: handyman@mygo2guy.ca

Website: mygo2guy.ca

How to Use Colours Effectively

Although there seems to be countless decorating style and techniques out in the world, when it comes to talking about Colours and Design there are no strict rules. Colour and design is about what you love and feel comfortable doing to your home. That being said it is important to understand the loose idea of design and the impact your choices may have on your home. That is why today we will be going over how to use colour effectively.

The Classic

Coloured walls and glossy white woodwork is the usual standard in most homes. This look is very crisp and clean, but can also appear quite harsh on the eyes depending on the contrast between the wall colour and trim. To combat this choose a complimentary neutral colour for the ceiling, although this is unconventional, it will create a more gradual contrast which in turn makes the room feel more spacious. Many paint companies have online tools to suggest these complimentary neutrals, or a paint shop should also be able to help you out for a more personal experience.

Reversing the Trend

We've talked about the traditional white trim, coloured wall, now lets talk about the opposite, dark trim with lighter walls. This design esthetic is a great way to change up the normal, and is a stupendous way to create light and space. Experts say that a darker baseboard not only makes the walls seem brighter but also creates a contemporary feel and makes the room seem more decorated.

Creating Space Through Colour

David Copperfield isn't the only one that can create an illusion, with the right paint colours and techniques you to can call yourself a magician. The key is knowing these two simple rules. Light colours make the walls feel farther away and dark colours bring the walls towards you. For example to make a narrow hallway seem wider your best option would be to paint a light colour on the walls running the length of the hallway and a darker colour on the end wall. This technique will make the hallway seem wider and shorter and prevent a tunnel like

effect. This same technique can also make a rectangular room feel more like a square.

Stretching the Walls

Ceiling height; the higher the better in these new homes being built around the city, but there is a cheaper way to make your ceilings feel higher, than building a new home, and it revolves around contrast. By reducing the contrast between your baseboard, walls, crown molding, and ceiling your walls will feel taller. One of the easiest ways to do this is to paint your baseboard, walls and crown molding the same colour and the ceiling a sympathetic white. That means a white with undertones of the wall colour. Another option is to paint everything from floor to ceiling. We have done that in our upstairs bathroom and we must say it works quite well. One thing to note if you choose this method is that a lighter color is ideal. The darker the colour the will become as it will reflect very little to no light.

Creating Flow Through the House

To spite what many people tell you, there is no need for military precision when it comes to decorating your spaces. However there is at least one thing you may want to think about before finalizing your colour choices. Consider your sightlines between rooms. Think of it this way, you may like the colour you chose for your kitchen and the colour you chose for your dining area but you may not like them side by side. It's important to choose colour that have similar tones. That means if you want the walls to pop go for it, but be continuous. Be bold around the entire house. If you are looking for a new pallet, go with greys or colours with grey undertones. That is really hot right now.

Lighter Rooms

Here is a nice little trick to make rooms feel brighter and more open. Paint your hallways with darker colours. This will instantly make the rooms feel brighter and more open.

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Conclusion

All in all these are all just ways to use colour. Whether you keep it classic or use some of these techniques to trick your eyes, the options are truly endless when it comes to colour. Just remember it's your house you should be happy with it.