# let's



FREE | 2021



# Let's hit refresh

Home: it's always been special, but in the past year it's also been the office, restaurant, pub, spa, hotel, social hub and sanctuary. So, what better way to say thanks than showing it a bit of love with a fresh new look? We've got everything you need to get started.

#### INSIDE THE ISSUE:

Our **Colour Lookbook** reveals how to create a calming sanctuary

27 Get answers to your decorating dilemmas – just **Ask Dr Dulux** 

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42 Show us your rooms! Join the #feelgoodcolour conversation



#### OUR EXPERTS



Meet Marianne Shillingford. our **Creative** Director and colour guru who'll help you pick the perfect palette.



Keep an eve out for Matt Gray, our Skills Development Consultant and our resident go-to guy for all things DIY.

We let you know which paint we've used throughout the magazine with swatches and tins (below) making it super-easy for you to shop everything you see in store.

#### ON THE COVER





**NEW Dulux Simply Refresh One Coat;** NEW Dulux Simply Refresh Feature Wall; Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood

#### Choose your perfect colour:

1 EXPLORE OUR PAINT LBrowse the fold-out colour chart in the middle of the magazine or head to dulux.co.uk.



VISUALISE YOUR SHADES Imagine how hues will look at home with the Visualizer App - download it free today.



TRY BEFORE YOU BUY Finally, see shortlisted shades on walls with Roller Testers pick up in store or at dulux.co.uk.





#### INTRODUCING SIMPLY REFRESH

One coat is all you need! Save time and energy redecorating your walls with new Dulux Simply Refresh



#### DISCOVER THE WORLD OF DULUX ONLINE

Want even more decorating inspiration? Sign up to our newsletter at **dulux.co.uk/signup** and get in touch through our social channels:



SHARE Take a snap for Insta and inspire others to do the same #feelgood

colour



#### ASK DR DULUX Share your

decorating questions with our resident experts #askdrdulux



#### YOUTUBE

Follow our handy Join the deco how-to videos and go behind the scenes at youtube.com/ duluxuk



#### SOCIAL

conversation and share your home makeovers on our social channels @duluxuk





Nutmeg White™





1

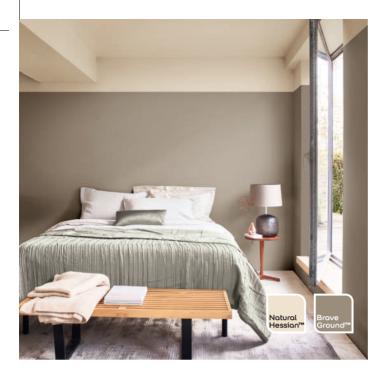


# Colour lookbook

Create a sanctuary at home with soothing neutral tones

arm, welcoming and versatile, earthy **shades** are a trend that's set to stay. Not only do they help our homes feel more connected to nature, these cinnamon browns, terracotta tones, putty greys and raw linen colours provide a sense of calm from the chaos. Better still, they work brilliantly with **Brave Ground** – our rejuvenating Colour of the Year 2021 – which is a neutral brown, inspired by stone, soil, clay and sand. What's great about the trend is how easy it is to mix and match your favourite shades in almost any room. For example, you could pick softer hues with Brave Ground as an accent in a bedroom, or try a blend of darker shades to make a living room feel sociable yet smart. Whatever the combination, earthy shades will turn your home into a haven.





Add texture with accessories to bring your earthy scheme to life – tactile cushions, timber grains and handmade ceramics



**OBJECTS OF DESIRE** 

Layer your room with simple ceramics for an organic look - check out this curvy vase from Nordic **Nest**. It's ideal for filling with stems of pampas grass.

Brass elements, such as this **West Elm** side table,

help to keep neutrals feeling



#### Go back to nature with these three ways to add earthy shades to a room



#### **BLISSFUL BATHROOM**

Warm up white ceramics by painting walls in a light earthy colour, such as **Soft Stone**. Layer the look by finishing furniture in a deeper shade like **Perfectly Taupe**, and adding striking flooring, such as tiles from our partner, **Topps Tiles**.



# Brave Ground" Copper Blush"

#### WRAPAROUND COLOUR

Paint is a great way to create features. Try using two complementary shades, such as **Brave Ground** and **Copper Blush**, across the walls of a bedroom. The lighter shade on the top half of the wall serves as a calming backdrop, while the lower half forms a headboard and highlights the furniture.







Dulux Easycare Bathroom; Dulux Easycare Washable & Tough; NEW Dulux Simply Refresh Feature Wall







#### MAKE SPACE

Refreshing your kitchen cabinets with paint is an excellent way of quickly transforming the room, and by picking a pale tone – here we've chosen **Willow Tree** – you'll open up the area visually, helping to create a greater sense of space. Use **Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood**, which is water-based, meaning it's quick to dry and won't smell during the painting process.

Replacing your cabinet door handles will also instantly change their look and feel – go minimal and sleek with a contrasting tone to avoid the space looking cluttered.

#### SMART STORAGE

In a small kitchen, making it feel more spacious is key, and one of the best ways to achieve this is by including plenty of storage options. Channel Marie Kondo and be selective about what you have on display. Make sure that anything on open shelving adds to the overall look and style, and keep everyday clutter neatly tucked away behind cupboard doors. Here, we've painted the open shelving in the same **Overtly Olive** shade as the walls to help it subtly blend into the background.

"Pale tones really help open up the room visually"

#### **TEXTURE TIPS**

Creating a spacious look and feel doesn't mean keeping everything monotone and sparse. Instead, adding pops of contrasting colours and patterns through accessories can add bags of character to your kitchen, from bright kitchenware pieces to textured chopping boards and tonal textiles. Likewise, adding plants to shelves or corners will help soften the room's overall finish.



HEAD TO PINTEREST TO DISCOVER MORE 'SPOTLIGHT ON' INSPIRATION @DULUXUK





Dulux Easycare Kitchen; Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood



# The weekend project

Create a cosy zone with colour in an open-plan room

hether you've knocked through or have a doubleduty lounge, decorating a space that serves more than one purpose can be tricky. A statement feature wall is the perfect solution – not only does it add a shot of colour, it helps to subtly divide the space so that the different functions are clear. Plus, thanks to new **Dulux Simply Refresh** Feature Wall paints, you can achieve it in a single coat, leaving you plenty of time to style the space and put your feet up for the rest of the weekend. With a warm colour, such as **Blush Pink**, serving as a canvas, a feature wall in a deeper shade like **Acai Berry** will really pop. The ideal place for the feature wall is a focal point, so try it behind a sofa, around a fireplace or in an alcove, and remember that there's no need to paint the whole wall. A partial block of colour can be just as effective in defining a snug, welcoming area.

#### YOU'LL NEED

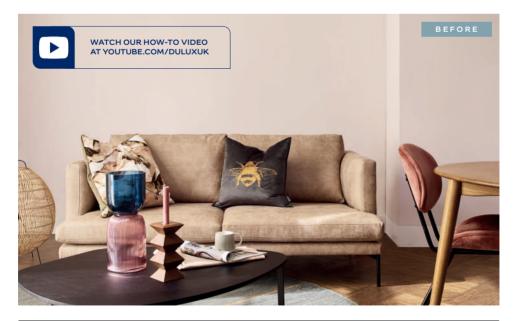
- · Tape measure and pencil
- String and chalk
- · Masking tape and scissors
- Paintbrush
- · Paint from colour palette
- Stirring stick
- · Roller and tray
- Extension pole







NEW Dulux Simply Refresh One Coat; **NEW Dulux Simply Refresh Feature** Wall; Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood





#### KEEP THINGS ON TRACK



#### 10 minutes

Begin by ensuring the section of wall you're about to paint is clean and dry. Then, use a tape measure to carefully mark where your feature wall will be positioned.



#### 20 minutes

Wipe chalk along the length of a piece of string. Fix it to the wall along one outer edge of your feature area so it's taut, and 'ping' it to leave a line. Mask along the line, then repeat for the remaining edges.



#### 30 minutes (+ drying) Paint over the tape with

your canvas colour (in our case, Blush Pink) to seal it and create a crisp edge. Once that's dry, apply one coat of Acai **Berry Simply Refresh** Feature Wall to the inner edge of the tape.



#### 1 hour (+ drying)

Use a roller to paint the rest of the colour block in a single coat of Acai Berry, using an extension pole for the highest points of the wall. Leave to dry, and admire your results.

# My colour story

Our readers share the shades that make their dream home



CASE STUDY ONE

"Decoratina our new home really helped us embrace a different wau of life"

or Nicky Rampley-Clarke and his husband John. moving to the Surrey countryside was both exciting and daunting. "We knew we were up for a challenge after transforming our terraced house in Tooting," says Nicky. "But we were also nervous about moving out of the city - we're young, and we love socialising and entertaining our friends and family, so we wanted to make the house feel youthful and bold."

Moving in April 2020, mid-lockdown, meant that getting their living space right took on even greater significance. "We knew the house had potential, but it needed a creative overhaul. Initially, we had planned to start on the bedrooms, but when we realised we would be working from home, the downstairs living areas became our priority." To achieve their vision even faster and with a crisp finish, Nicky and John decided to call in a professional decorator.

Starting in what would become the office, Nicky wanted a calming colour that would allow him to concentrate, "but still feel stylish and homely". He



chose Sapphire Salute, opting for a silk finish to add a slight sheen. "I love walking in there now - it's bold but sleek, and it's become a little pasis "







#### WORK AND PLAY

"We definitely took some decoration inspiration from a few of our favourite TV shows, and the home bar set up in the office is pure Mad Men, stocked with crystal decanters our parents collected over the years," says Nicky.

The couple also loved Greenleaf a Netflix series about a wealthy family from Memphis, Tennessee - and took a few cues from the amazing mansion the family lives in. "In particular, we chose really dark, high-polish wooden floors, which add a strength of character to the house that was a bit lacking before. A few of our friends tried to change our minds, but now they can see our vision really works."



#### COMPLEMENTARY COLOURS

Making sure the house was youthful and vibrant was especially important to Nicky and John. "We wanted to live in the country, but not necessarily in a house that screamed it," says John. "The original structure was built in the 1940s, and then the previous owners extended substantially about 10 years ago, so the house didn't have anything in the way of period features."

The couple decided that alternating bold colours with gentler hues would help give it that stamp of personality they wanted. "The colours layer together really beautifully, from the punchy Copper Blush of the gym to First Dawn in the lounge, and then **Sapphire Salute** in the office," says Nicky. "We've also added little accents of those colours elsewhere in prints and pictures, so the whole ground floor really comes together, despite some of the colours being quite bold."





Dulux Easycare Washable & Tough; **NEW Dulux Simply Refresh One Coat** 





#### CASE STUDY TWO



"Before we decorated. Lused to avoid spending time in the kitchen. Now it's mu favourite room"

edecorating the kitchen was a long time coming for Lisa Smart and her husband Martin. "I was so embarrassed by the dated décor, I would usher my friends out of the room when they visited, but we knew it would be pricey to replace," says Lisa. Then, in February 2020, the Wickford-based couple realised they could remove the breakfast bar and repaint their units instead. "We chose **Polished Pebble** for the cupboards. then our focus was finding the right wall colour," says Lisa. "I fancied a blue, but I also wanted a bright, spacious feel. As soon as I put **Denim Drift** on the wall, I knew it was the one. Now I love spending time and entertaining in here."









**Dulux Easycare** Washable & Tough; Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood

#### MODERN MEETS RUSTIC

"I loved trawling Pinterest for inspiration," says Lisa. "I wanted a modern space with a hint of country, and I think the **Denim Drift** against the rustic table and white countertop really works. I replaced an old chandelier with three glass drop lights and have fresh flowers on the table as the centrepiece." Formerly a wallpaper devotee, Lisa says decorating the kitchen has transformed her way of thinking. "I can't wait to refresh other rooms with paint - it's so simple and makes such a huge difference. It's really brought the kitchen to life."







#### STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE



#### 50 minutes (+ drying)

Lay down a dust sheet. Sand the desk top (and legs, if painting). Brush off any dust and wipe down with a cloth. Use a small roller to apply Dulux Primer for Difficult Surfaces. Leave to dry for 4-6 hours.



#### 10 minutes

Lightly sand the primed surfaces to ensure a smooth painting surface, then wipe down with a damp cloth. Open a can of Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood and stir.



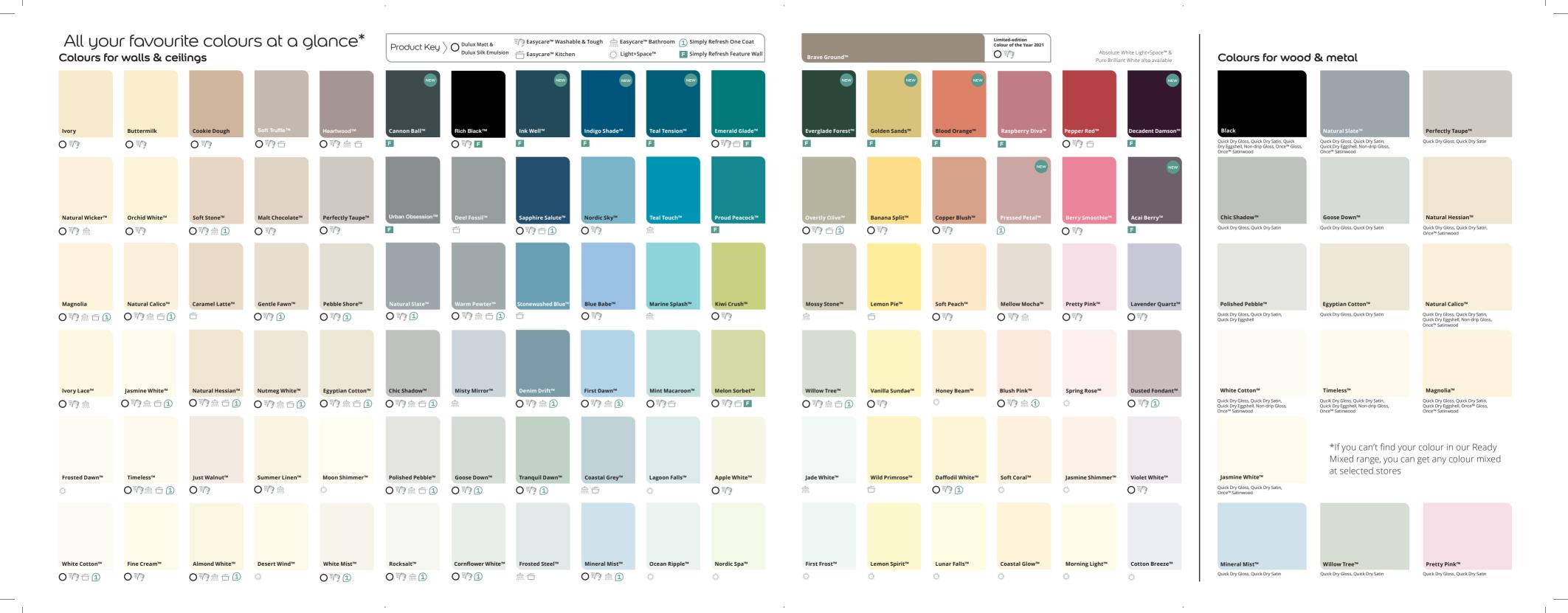
#### 50 minutes (+ drying)

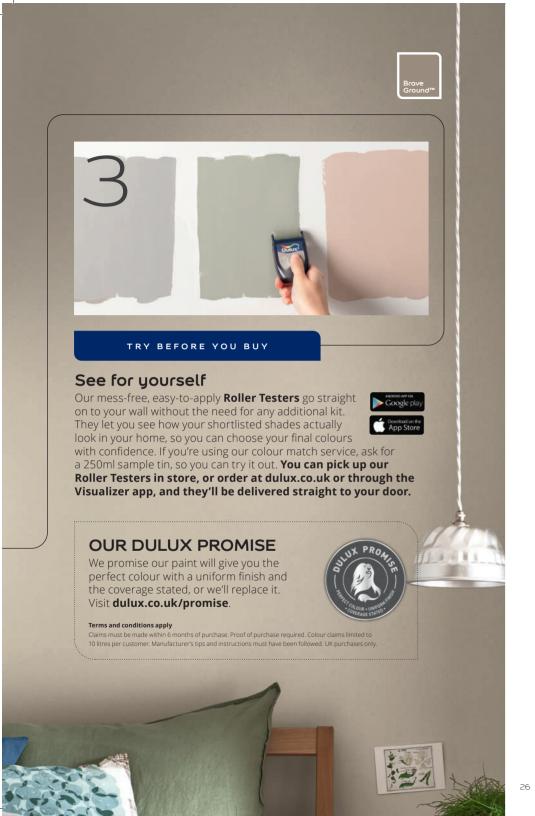
Apply the first coat of paint, using a small roller for the desktop and a paintbrush for the sides and legs, if painting. Leave to dry, then apply a second coat.



#### 10 minutes (+ drying)

As soon as the second coat is on, use a paintbrush to redistribute the paint, ensuring the brush strokes follow the same direction. This ensures a smooth and even finish.





#### Dulux Weathershield

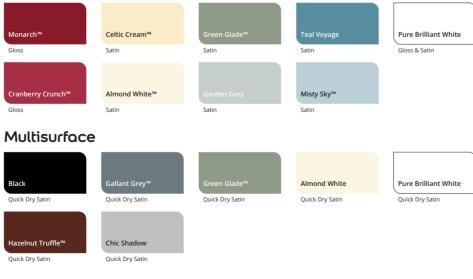
#### Exterior walls masonry



Smooth & Textured Masonry

#### Exterior wood & metal







#### SHAPE UP Add depth to a blank wall

with a feature arch – just the job for framing a piece

of furniture. Contrasting colours work best, such as **Gentle Fawn** with Emerald Glade. To trace the arch, chalk a weighted length of string and 'ping' it against the wall to mark the vertical sides. Apply masking tape along the lines. Measure halfway across the top of the arch. between the taped lines. Cut a length of string and pin one end to this midpoint. Tie a pencil to the other end where it meets your masking tape. Keeping the string taut, draw a curve from one tape to the other, forming the top of the arch. Paint along the top of the arch freehand, and use a roller to fill in the rest.



NEW Dulux Simply Refresh One Coat: **NEW Dulux Simply** Refresh Feature Wall



#### Browse the range Use this handy fold-out chart to see our colour range at a glance and get

a feel for your favourites – not only do we have everything you need for your interior walls, but for your exterior masonry, too. If you've already got a favourite colour, take a sample in store - it might be a textile or a treasured keepsake - and we'll colour match and mix a paint especially for you.

Colour choice

made easy

our simple step-by-step system

Find your perfect colour match with







### Imagine the possibilities

See our colours on your walls with the **Visualizer app**. Simply download for free (from the App Store or Google Play), scan your room with a phone or tablet, and virtually paint the walls with a tap of the screen. It's never been easier to experiment with hues in your home!



26 Dulux Let's Colour / Dulux.co.uk Dulux Let's Colour / Dulux.co.uk 19

OMBRE EFFECTS

There's no better way to bring a set of shelves

to life than with statement colour blocking. All

you need is three coordinating hues – a darker one for the centre shelf to draw the eye, such

as **Golden Sands**, a mid-tone for the shelves

above and below it, such as Almond Butter,

point, with a pencil on the end to draw your

circle, divide it into fifths and paint each wall

tabletop (opposite), with **Dulux Primer &** 

colours with **Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood**.

**Dulux Primer & Undercoat for Wood; Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood; Dulux** 

Easycare Washable & Tough

section as shown. Prep the shelves as for the

Undercoat for Wood, then paint in matching



"How do I prepare my brick walls for painting?

MARK, CHELMSFORD



#### Giving your exterior walls a new lease of life is easy if you use the right products

1 First things first: make sure your brickwork is completely dry and that there's no wet weather forecast. For the best results, you should aim to paint your brickwork on a dry, mild day - ideally 10°C or warmer.

2 Scrape and brush any loose or flaky material from the brickwork, including any dirt or grease. If there are areas of mould or lichen, treat the wall with Weathershield **Multi-Surface Fungicidal** 

Wash. If your brickwork feels powdery to the touch, apply a coat of **Weathershield** Stabilising Primer.

3 Use a natural bristle masonry brush to apply two coats of **Dulux Weathershield All** Weather Protection Smooth Masonry Paint - we've opted for Concrete Grey with a feature circle in Jasmine White - leaving 4 hours between coats. Allow to dry completely, then admire your newly refreshed wall.

#### Ask Dr Dulux

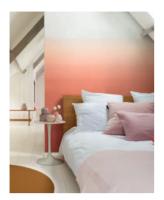
"How can I use paint to make my awkwardly shaped rooms and low ceilings feel more spacious?"

ANNE. WORCESTER



IDEA #2

#### FIND THE FOCAL POINT





Jasmine

Awkwardly shaped rooms usually have one thing in common, and that's broken sightlines that make the space feel disjointed. Instead of struggling against this separation, celebrate it by defining different areas with colour. Using paint to add focal points will help to ease the transition from one area to another and give each zone a clear purpose.

#### **BLUR THE BOUNDARIES**

Another trick to try in an unconventionally shaped room is an ombre effect. This works in the same way as vertical stripes in that it helps a room to feel wider, while the graded colour visually raises the ceiling height. As only the lower part of the wall will be dark, aim to choose a bold shade, such as Copper Blush.

This technique can be especially effective in a bedroom, where the bands of colour can serve as a painted headboard; or in a multifunctional room, such as a lounge with a dining area.







Dulux Easycare Washable & Tough; Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood; Dulux Light + Space



IDEA #3

#### **MAKE AN ENTRANCE**

allways have a tendency to be narrow and gloomy, but there's no reason why they can't feel wide and welcoming. A clever use of colour and a few design tricks are all you need. First, create a blank canvas with the right paint. **Dulux Light+Space** includes light-reflecting particles that will make the whole space feel brighter overall.

Next, paint sections of the hallway in different colours. which will help to break up its long, narrow appearance. This could be an arch over a

console, a strip running the length of the wall or even the ceiling in an uplifting shade, as we've done here with Mineral Mist on White Mist. The idea is to draw the eye along the length of the corridor rather than focus on the proximity of the walls.

Another option to help distract from the narrow aspect of the walls is to paint the floor or doors leading off from the hallway in a darker shade. This helps create a 'pathway' through the narrow space and defines its features.

#### Ask Dr Dulux

## "How should I paint a radiator?"

#### PETER, NORTHALLERTON





#### **PREPARATION IS KEY**

Ensure your radiator is turned off and cold. Use a piece of 'wet and dry' abrasive paper with a drop of detergent and warm water to rub the surface evenly, then rinse and dry. If you're left with any bare patches, make sure you prep them with Dulux Multi Surface Primer & Undercoat - it'll protect your radiator from rust and ensure your paint adheres to the surface nicely.



#### **TOOLS AT THE READY**

Next up, make sure you've got the right kit for the job. You'll need a paint suitable for metal, such as **Dulux Quick Dry Satinwood**, and a natural bristle brush. And remember, radiators don't have to be white. Use your imagination: you might want to paint them to blend in with your wall colour, or even pick a bold, contrasting colour to make a feature of them.



#### PROTECT AND PERFECT

Use masking tape to cover off valves and pipe work, and pop a dust sheet underneath the radiator to catch any stray paint drops. Then, get painting: start at the edges, then paint the face in a vertical direction using long, sweeping brush strokes to get a neat, even finish. Leave for at least six hours before applying a second coat, then allow to dry fully before turning on the radiator.



#### Ask Dr Dulux

# "My kids share a room – how can I give each their own space?

#### **CAMILLA, FARNHAM**

Create a design divide that'll give each child a distinct area - and you some much-needed peace

iblings: at once life-long besties and fierce rivals. Never is this truer than when they're sharing a common space, but don't worry there are some smart solutions for giving each of your children their own sanctuary within the same room. Here, we've created colour-led dividing lines to demarcate each child's space, with bold stripes in Overtly Olive and Soft **Peach** on **Rock Salt** offering a definitive contrast. Both sides of the room are then accessorised in similar tones, creating a mirror-image space that still allows each sibling their own identity and

ownership – enhanced by personalised wall prints

of their initials. A shared bedside table, rug and





**Dulux Easycare** Washable & Tough 20 times tougher than standard Dulux Matt

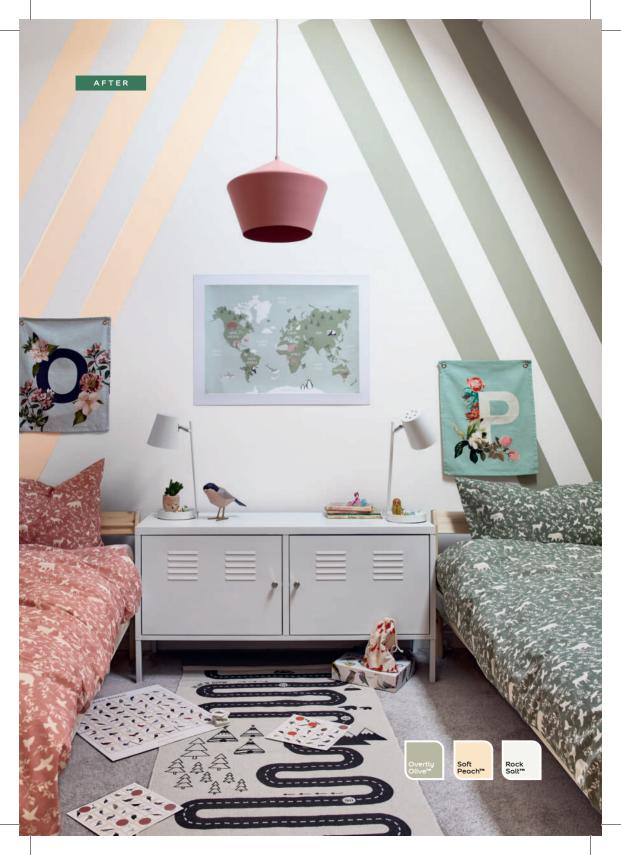


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eye-catching poster create a centrepiece, while the diagonal wall stripes which meet at the ceiling create dynamic lines to draw the eye upwards and enhance the sense of space. Now the only challenge is for them to tidy it symmetrically...





## "How can I give my uPVC front door an easy refresh?"

#### CLAUDIA, WINCHESTER

our front door plays a major role in your property's appearance and kerb appeal – after all, it's the first thing visitors see when they arrive. Luckily, it's also something that's easily refreshed, even if your door is made from uPVC. All you need are the right products – such as **Dulux Primer for Difficult Surfaces** to prep your surface, followed by a top coat of Dulux Weathershield Quick Dry Exterior Satin – and in just a few hours your door will look as good as new. Try the timeless tones of **Green Glade** for an instant character boost.



Begin by wiping down your door with a sponge and soapy water to remove any dirt or grease. Dry the surface and place a dust sheet beneath the open door.



2 Lightly sand your door surface. This will create a good key for the primer to adhere to.

# YOU'LL NEED

- **Bucket and sponge**
- **Dust sheet**
- Sandpaper
- Dusting brush
- Masking tape Primer and paint
- Stirring stick
- Paintbrush





**Dulux Primer for Difficult** Surfaces: Dulux Weathershield **Quick Dry Exterior Satin** 



 $3 \\ \text{Use the dusting brush to remove} \\ \\ 3 \\ \text{any residual dust}.$ 



Mask off the door handle and any other details. Next, apply a coat of Dulux Primer for Difficult Surfaces and allow to dry.



Stir the **Dulux Weathershield** Oquick Dry Exterior Satin well, then apply the first coat evenly using long, sweeping strokes.



Allow your first coat to dry for four hours before applying a second. Make sure your door is completely dry before closing it.

#### Ask Dr Dulux

# "How do I work out how much paint I need for different projects?"

#### MICHELLE, HYTHE

Guesstimates be gone: here's how to calculate uour paint requirements

#### Measure up

Grab a tape measure and work out the height and width of the surface you want to paint. Multiply the two together to get your square metre (m²) measurement. Subtract any windows or doors by using the same calculation method and deducting it from the total.

#### Calculate your coats

If you're using **Dulux Simply Refresh**, you'll only need to apply one coat of paint. If you're opting for an even more durable finish with Dulux EasyCare Washable & Tough, multiply your number by two (the number of coats needed).

#### Divide and conquer

Finally, divide the number by the m<sup>2</sup> per litre listed on your paint tin, or in the online product information. Voila! You've worked out the amount of paint you need.

#### ROLLER TESTER

Enough for a small patch on a wall

#### INTERIOR WOOD AND METAL

Perfect for a door or the skirting in a small room

#### FEATURE WALL

Ideal for painting a 2.5m interior wall

#### SMALL ROOM

Enough for all walls in a 2m x 2m or equivalent room

#### MEDIUM ROOM

Enough to cover all walls in a 4m x 4m or equivalent room









#### COMMUNITY SPIRIT



If you do end up with some leftover paint at the end of a project, why not donate it to Community RePaint a Dulux-sponsored, UK-wide paint recycling scheme that collects and redistributes paint to improve lives within communities. Find a participating centre near you at communityrepaint.org.uk.



# Call the professionals

Wondering what to ask the pros before they decorate your home? We've got you covered



#### IN TRUSTED HANDS

It's a big undertaking to have work done in your home, so knowing your tradespeople come recommended can offer real peace of mind. By choosing a professional from the **Dulux Select Decorators** scheme, you can rest easy knowing that they have been rigorously assessed for quality workmanship and superior industry knowledge.



#### **BEFORE WORK BEGINS**

Now more than ever, it's worth asking your professional about what safety precautions they routinely take and the equipment they use, to ensure both you and they are safe. These might include a risk assessment ahead of work starting, avoiding unnecessary visits to your property, maintaining a safe distance and, where necessary, wearing PPE while they're in your home. It's best to agree a plan before the job starts for



#### PAINT PERFECTION

Talk to your decorator ahead of time about what type of paint you'll need for the job, and the different finish options available. As the name suggests, matt paint is smooth and velvety, helping to hide imperfections, while satin and silk offer mid-sheen finishes that reflect a bit of light. Eggshell sits somewhere between matt and silk, while gloss offers a high-shine finish. Ask your decorator which they'd recommend for your job, and why.





select DECORATORS

#### CAREFULLY SELECTED FOR YOU

Our **Dulux Select Decorators** have been expertly selected with our customers firmly in mind, and their work comes with our guarantee. It's the directory you can trust for top decorators in your area. Go to duluxselectdecorators.co.uk

# **Paint** picker

Choose the right point with our product quide



than 30 vears' DIY and decorating experience under his belt, what Skills Development

Consultant and resident paint pro Matt Gray doesn't know about paint isn't really worth knowing.

"Using the right type of paint is essential if you want a finish that will look good and really last," says Matt. "There are a number of specialist products to help you make the most of your efforts, so use this handy guide to suss out which you need and you'll be well on your way to painting perfection."

#### **NEW PRODUCTS**

Rejuvenating your home has never been easier thanks to our new Simply Refresh paint: two ranges specially designed to achieve incredible results in one easy coat. See terms and conditions information on p44.



ONE COAT WONDER **NEW Dulux Simply** Refresh One Coat Refresh your paintwork

in one easy coat thanks to this extra-thick, hassle-free formula



FOR FEATURE WALLS NEW Dulux Simply Refresh Feature Wall

Creating a striking feature wall has never been simpler with this easy-to-apply paint in a range of bold shades.

KNOW YOUR ZONES

#### WHICH PAINTS **GO WHERE?**

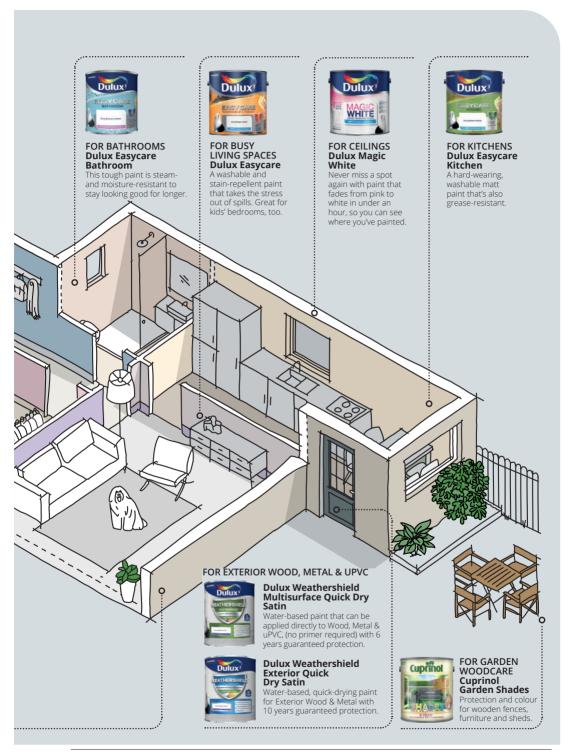


#### FOR EXTERIOR MASONRY/WALLS



#### **Dulux Weathershield All Weather Protection**

For masonry, render, concrete, pebble-dash & brickwork. Stay clean technology protects against all weather conditions for 15 years' long lasting protection.



# The ultimate toolkit

Choose your tools correctly first time round and you can reuse them again and again

#### THE BASICS

Don't spend a fortune on lots of tools. Instead, invest in the essentials up-front, and buy additional items as and when you need them



#### Synthetic-bristle brushes

Versatile, long-lasting and well suited to the application of water-based paints, a collection of different-sized synthetic-bristle brushes will see you through most decorating projects.



#### Roller and tray

For large surface areas, a roller is recommended as it applies paint faster and with a more even finish. A medium-pile roller should do the trick for both ceilings and walls.

#### THE PREP SET

Spend that little bit of extra time on prep before you begin painting - it will make the rest of the decorating process much less painful!



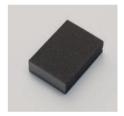
#### **Dust sheets**

Protect floors and furniture by covering exposed surfaces with good-quality dust sheets that you can keep and reuse for every project.



#### Filling knife

Achieve a great-looking finish on surfaces by using a filling knife to apply the right filler to damaged areas. Be sure you swap to a more flexible filler (decorators' caulk) where walls meet woodwork.



#### Sandpaper and sanding blocks

Buy different grades of sandpaper to make prep smoother. Look out for flexible blocks as these can be used on a variety of surfaces, such as doors and skirting.

#### THE PAINT PICKS

Add to your decorating arsenal as you work on different projects around the house - building your toolkit as you go means you don't end up buying unnecessary items



#### Stirring stick

Paint can separate in the tin, so stir it well before applying to ensure the colour and consistency are as they should be.



#### Stepladder

Being able to reach all areas in the room safely is crucial, so make sure you use a good-quality stepladder that's tall enough for the job.



#### **Extension pole**

Painting large surface areas and hard-to-reach places can be made easier by attaching your roller to the end of an extension pole.



#### **EXPERT** KNOW-HOW Matt Gray

"Keep the door to the room you're working in firmly shut, so kids and pets stay safely out of the way. Ensure ventilation is good before you begin, to reduce the smell and help fresh paint dry. Wear safety glasses to shield your eyes from any spray from the roller. Finally, decorate in decent natural light and avoid the temptation to rush. Good work takes time - and the results are worth it."



#### **Dusting cloths** and brush

Have dusting cloths and a brush to hand as they're useful for getting rid of dust and wiping down surfaces before painting, especially if you've sanded beforehand.



#### Masking tape

Invest in masking tape to protect surfaces you don't want to get paint on. Good-quality tapes also reduce the risk of paint seeping underneath and give visibly sharper, cleaner lines.



#### Additional rollers

Like brushes, rollers come in all different sizes, so there shouldn't be any surface area you can't paint.



#### Brush comb

Clean brushes with this dedicated comb, used at an angle to remove excess paint from bristles. It makes cleaning easier and quicker.

#### The roll call

Wondering which roller to use for which job? Here's our handy quide

#### Medium-pile roller

A medium-pile roller is ideal for water-based matt and silk paints. Designed for internal walls and ceilings, the synthetic fibres hold more paint so you don't need to reload as often.



#### Long-pile roller

Perfect for textured surfaces such as external walls. long-pile rollers are able to get into the areas a shorter-pile roller might struggle with - but avoid using them on internal walls.



#### Mini roller and longer-reach frame

Suitable for use on wooden surfaces, including furniture, skirting boards and internal doors, the mini roller creates a smooth, even finish. The 20" longer-reach frame helps you get to those trickier spots.





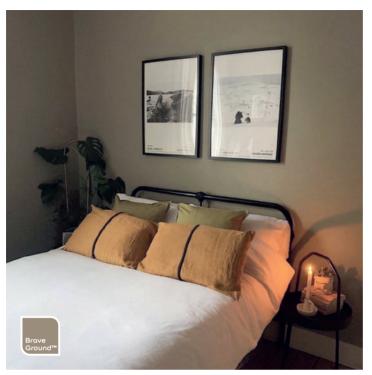
#### Extension pole

Painting walls and ceilings is a doddle with the help of a roller extension pole, which can be fitted to most roller arms - just check if you need a push fit or a threaded handle.









"When I saw Brave Ground I knew it was the perfect shade for our spare room. It's so versatile gorgeous against the black accents of the bed frame and our prints, while also picking out the greens of the houseplants and cushions dotted around the room." @hqυρρυ

"So many people think that my terrazzo wall is either wallpaper, stencils or decals... nope! I hand-painted it... all you need is a few different coloured tester pots or tins of unused paint and you've got yourself a pretty unique feature wall... I decided to wrap the terrazzo design around the wall too" @all\_things\_interior





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