

home



COLOR BLACK+ WHITE

Combining these opposites dials up the drama with minimal risk. They're both neutrals, the look is always in style, and the palette goes with anything, which makes it easy to add to or update. Layering different textures and tones is the secret to making this duo feel livable and effortless.

PRODUCED BY: MONIKA EYERS; STYLING: JESSICA THOMAS



WALL
SIMILAR TO
RAILINGS 31
FARROW
& BALL



PILLOW
Better Homes &
Gardens Collection®
Zig Zag Stripe,
\$13 (18"×18");
walmart.com/BHG



LAMP
Billingsley Ceramic
Double Loop,
\$97; wayfair.com



INSTANT CLASSIC

Michigan-based editor and creative consultant Michelle Adams is known for her ability to spot trends, but at home she favors longevity. "I don't want to have to keep redesigning," she says. "Black and white is timeless." Her tricks to getting it right:

CLASH CONSISTENTLY Different warm and cool tones of white and black will creep into a room. Embrace it. A warm white in a cool white room could look like a mistake, but if you repeat the color, the mix looks intentional.

LOOK FOR THE RIGHT LIGHT Black walls work well in a room that gets a lot of natural light. They make the space feel cozy instead of cave-like.

EMBRACE TENSION A room with a tight palette is in danger of being too matchy. Stylistic juxtapositions, like a traditional nightstand under modern artwork, *above*, or contrasting sleek and ornate dining chairs, *right*, keep things interesting.



RUG
Zebra Black, \$199
(5'×7' with rug pad);
ruggable.com



COFFEE TABLE
Project 62 Pradet
Tray, \$150 (18"×33");
target.com

“ACCENT COLORS ARE EASY TO ADD. SPIN A COLOR WHEEL AND STOP ANYWHERE; IT WILL WORK WITH BLACK AND WHITE.” Michelle Adams

CLEVER CONTRASTS

Practically where-to-paint guides, these rooms illustrate impactful ways to combine black and white.



ACCENT WALL

A narrow room seems wider when a coat of black paint makes one wall recede, drawing your eye straight back.
Interior design by Ewa Czerny



TRIM

Molding doesn't have to blend in. When trim is black, we automatically notice the detailing it adds to a room.
Interior design by Sasha Bikoff



FLOORS

A large-scale pattern underfoot pulls the island and cabinetry together.
Interior design by Beth Webb Interiors



CEILING

A coat of matte black on the ceiling envelops a large, light-filled room, making it feel cozier.
Interior design by Tamara Magel



BOOKSHELVES

Curios and books stand out against a black background, which also creates the illusion of room-expanding depth.
Interior design by Rita Crane



CABINETS

Black lower cabinets ground the room and hide wear; white upper cabinets keep the kitchen airy.
Interior design by Suzanne Dimma

SET THE TONE

The undertones of other shades on a paint strip will tell you if your black and white lean warm or cool. Stick to one temperature to create a mood.



WARM IT UP

Accents in soft reds or pinks add to the inviting feel of this palette.

TOP White Dove OC-17 Benjamin Moore
BOTTOM Black Magic PPG1001-7 PPG



COOL IT DOWN

Furnishings in chalky blues, greens, or lilacs keep this pair on the serene rather than cold side.

TOP Blanched Pine 7005-15 Valspar
BOTTOM Ink Black N490-7 Behr ■