

home



COLOR FRONT DOORS

If your home's first impression leans closer to ho-hum than "welcome home!" it might be time for the easiest curb appeal boost on the block: painting the front door. Cool blues and greens, bright pinks and yellows, or fiery reds and oranges—choose a color and apply it confidently with our tips on the following pages.



PHOTOS: (TOP) FRENCH BLUE PHOTOGRAPHY, CALLIE HOBBS, CODY GUILFOYLE; (MIDDLE) PETER MURDOCK, KYLE J CALDWELL, TRUNK ARCHIVE; (BOTTOM) BRIAN WOODCOCK, STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG PHOTOGRAPHY, VIRGINIA MACDONALD

COLOR CUES

Houses tend to have neutral exteriors—brick, stone, wood, chalky siding—leaving the front door as the best spot to show your style in

color. “Think about what you want the door to say about you. Is it a happy and welcoming yellow or a classic and sophisticated blue?” says PPG color expert Dee Schlotter. The door is also a focal point, so context matters. Consider these when choosing a new color:

- **YOUR HOUSE** The color of the facade, trim, and any shutters sets the main scene, so treat the front door as an accent. Do you want the door to coordinate with the architecture or punctuate it?
- **YOUR YARD** “Draw inspiration from your landscape,” says Sue Wadden, director of color marketing at Sherwin-Williams. Jewel tones from the garden complement rural areas; bright hues sing in sun-drenched desert and coastal regions.
- **YOUR BLOCK** Think about what color will jibe with the other homes on the street. If your neighborhood has a homeowners association, you may need to get your color choice approved, says Scott Beaudry, a Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate agent in Henderson, NV.



Repeating yellows brighten a shaded entry (Benjamin Moore Inner Glow). <<

MAKE AN ENTRANCE

These eye-catching hues create a welcoming entry that enlivens a neutral exterior. Test options by painting poster boards and hanging them on the door.



HERITAGE RED
PM-18
Benjamin Moore

Signifying *welcome* in feng shui, a red door energizes traditional architecture and is a pleasing contrast with pale exterior tones.



IDYLLIC ISLE
PPG1235-4
PPG

Pastel teal evokes coastal charm against cedar shingles or Palm Springs coolness against a white facade. Elevate the look with silver-tone hardware.



COY PINK
3-28
Pratt & Lambert

More clay than candy, this dusky pink is an approachable take on a trending front door color. Use it to soften a black facade.



HEMISPHERE
M500-4
Behr

Look to the famed blue doors of Paris and pair slate blue with a taupe house. Or use it on a navy facade trimmed in white for tone-on-tone style.



DERBYSHIRE
SW 6741
Sherwin-Williams

Grassy green complements red brick (its color wheel opposite) and amps up muted grays. Greens also make a strong connection to landscaping.

attention-grabbers

“Nothing makes a buyer stop scrolling faster than a pretty painted front door,” says Kelly Potter, Better Homes & Gardens Real Estate agent in Gainesville, FL. The colors shown on page 28:

TOP Neon Red 2087-10 Benjamin Moore
■ similar to Green Wave 681 Benjamin Moore ■ Pink Quartz S160-2 Behr

MIDDLE Navel SW 6887 Sherwin-Williams
■ Newburyport Blue HC-155 Benjamin Moore
■ similar to Golf Course DE5601 Dunn-Edwards

BOTTOM Artichoke SW 6179 Sherwin-Williams
■ similar to Yellow Rose 45YY73/519 PPG ■ Black 2132-10 Benjamin Moore

A door in
Sherwin-Williams'
Indigo stands
up to the
painted floor
and ceiling.



THE X FACTOR

The saying "Use the right tool for the right job" applies to more than gadgets. Set yourself up for success by getting these three factors right.

■ **THE PAINT** Choose a high-quality exterior-grade paint. They are less prone to peeling and grime buildup than interior paints and have UV-resistance to prevent fading, so you won't have to repaint for nearly a decade. Some even have antimicrobial properties to ward off mildew, which is important if your region gets a lot of rain or snow. Gloss or semigloss finishes are hardest-wearing.

■ **THE DOOR** The door material determines paint type. Water-base paints are best for most wood species and fiberglass; oil-base paints help prevent rust on metal doors. Use a corresponding primer. When painting, the hinge edge should match the exterior color, and the latch edge should match the interior color. And always prep first (see *right*).

■ **THE WEATHER** Even if you set up in the garage, this is a fair-weather project, so choose a mild, dry day. Paint takes longer to dry in cold or humidity and can blister or dry too quickly in heat and sun. Read the label for recommended weather conditions and dry times.



more upgrades

Simply hover your smartphone camera over this code to see 20 more ways you can make over your front entry.

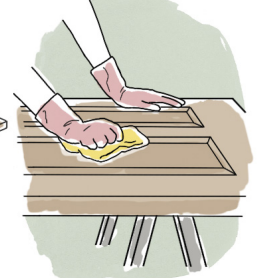
HOW TO PAINT IT

Choose quick-drying paint that lets you paint a typical paneled wood door in a day. Start in the morning, work fast to wipe away any drips or globs as you go, and you'll finish by nightfall.



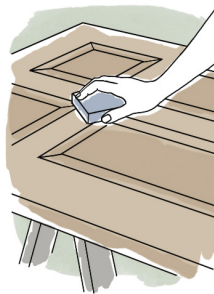
1 SET UP

If you protect the hardware and frame, you can paint a hanging door, but removing hardware and laying the door flat is easier.



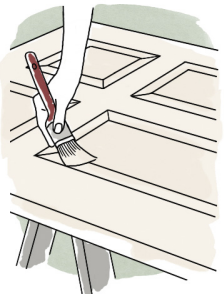
2 CLEAN IT

Thoroughly wash off any dirt and grime using a sponge and a mild solution of dish soap and water. Rinse and let dry.



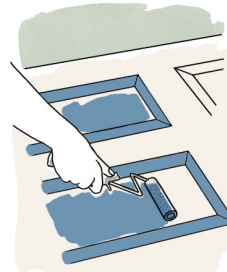
3 PREP SURFACE

Lightly sand old paint. Start with 120-grit sandpaper for deep nicks, then smooth the surface with 220-grit. Clean off dust.



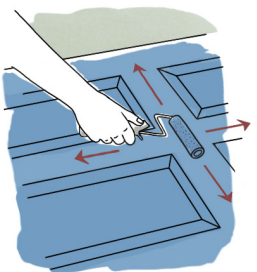
4 APPLY PRIMER

Using a 1½- to 2½-inch angled brush, apply primer to trim and crevices. Roll the flat areas with a 6-inch low-nap roller. Let dry.



5 PAINT PANELS

Use an angled brush to paint trim and crevices. Then, following the wood grain, paint flat panels with the mini roller.



6 FINISH IT

Paint in this order: center strip, all horizontal sections, then outer vertical strips and hinge edge. Let dry. Apply second coat. ■