

Beyond the Beige:

TIPS FOR CHOOSING A NEUTRAL PALETTE

By Andrea Colman,
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Every year, we seem to get caught up in the colour of the year. In the last decade alone, we've cycled through Pantone's Ultra Violet, Greenery, RoseQuartz, Serenity (a shade of periwinkle blue), Marsala, Emerald, Tangerine and more. This year, the hot hue is Living Coral. While colour trends are fun to follow, they often change on a dime and can quickly date a home's style. The lovers of neutral hues may be on to something.

Many are naturally drawn to neutrals when decorating their homes. It's the safe option - preferred when listing a home for sale due to its wide appeal, and when choosing big-ticket items for the home that will not soon be replaced, such as floors. These are expensive to replace when a trend has come and gone, so this is where neutral selections work best.



Designer Pick:

*Neutral and suits any style of home
"Freshcut" Fuzionflooring.com*

*Now, contrary to popular belief, neutral
does not equate to boring. Here are some
ways to liven up a neutral palette.*

MATERIAL

The typically soft, gentle tones we find in nature are about as "neutral" as you can get. As for the floors, wood and stone are my go-to materials, as they add subtle colour and texture to a space without compromising a neutral aesthetic. I like to think of wood and stone as the jeans of the wardrobe - dress them up, dress them down - they go with everything.

Stone veneer has risen in popularity, delivering a look comparable to real stone but at a fraction of the price and weight. You can find an amazing array of stone veneer prod-





Beautiful wall detailing Erthcovering.com

pop. A neutral colour palette can be offset by a bold, geometric pattern to attract the eye and make a lasting impression. The hexagon reigns supreme in 2019, and it is a popular choice for tiles in kitchens and bathrooms, seen in backsplashes, showers and floors. The hot honeycomb motif can be found in a range of materials.

METALS

Metal is a neutral element on its own, whether you prefer classic chrome or stainless steel, or you lean toward a more trendy gold finish. A great way to boost your neutral decor is to mix your metals within it. The combination of silver and gold instantly adds unexpected interest. Just make sure to match your finish - polished, brushed, satin or matte. Pick one and stick with it.

Hudson Valley is one such company that offers a wide range of lighting options such



ucts on the market, from marble to more cost-effective stone veneer products from companies like EARTH Coverings.

PATTERN

The absence of bold colour allows the shape and pattern to make your interiors



as this contemporary-style pendant that combines bold geometry with a trendy metal to modernize this neutral, white-on-white kitchen - and it pairs beautifully with stainless steel.

When it comes to trending colours each year, let the details speak to the trends. "Soft" elements such as window coverings, cushions, artwork and accessories can be changed out easily.



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With almost two decades of reno & design experience, her full-service firm serves clientele throughout GTA, Ontario. The growing boutique design firm is known for creating stylish, harmonious and livable environments.

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