

# Furniture & Design Trends



# What Is Color Drenching?

Color drenching is a design trend that blows an accent wall across a whole room, including trim, radiators, wall plates and more are all covered in the same color.

This saturates the room in a single color (but not always texture; more on that in a minute).

## WHAT'S BEHIND COLOR DRENCHING?

It comes from Great Britain, where Patrick O'Donnell, brand ambassador for British company Farrow & Ball, says the technique can really pull a room together.

"It's a fantastic trick for allowing unspectacular details like radiators or overly prominent built-in cabinets to 'disappear,'" he told Architectural Digest.

## WHAT DOES IT DO?

Having every surface in a room the same hue can make rooms look bigger, yes, even the ceilings. Especially if they're high. Dark hues, such as rich forest green, can create more intimacy, but you run the risk of making a room feel claustrophobic. Instead, for smaller spaces, choose lighter, more tranquil hues, unless coziness is exactly what you're going for. That's why the technique works well even in pass-through



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spaces, such as foyers and hallways.

## USE YOUR TEXTURE

While everything may be the same color, it doesn't have to be the same sheen. Opt for mattes on ceilings and flat surfaces, while paneling and other details can be in a semi-gloss or

flossy finish. Mixing textures can create more visual interest, adding depth in the space. In bathrooms or kitchens, consider matching wall paint and tile and grout for a big impact.

## MAKE SURE YOU LOVE YOUR COLOR

Color drenching is a big, bold

commitment and uses big, bold colors. Before you paint the first wall, experiment with a few shades of the color you've chosen. Select a shade, then get samples of the colors around it on your manufacturer's color chart. Put samples on the wall and look at it in all kinds of light — morning, afternoon and

at night with your home's lights on.

"We always test a lot of different shades when we're working with intense colors," interior designer Frances Merrill of Reath Design said. "That's how we make sure a strong tone feels calm and embracing, not off-putting."



# Caring for Wood Furniture

Wood furniture warms up a space and can even be heirloom pieces to pass on to future generations. That's only if it's well taken care of, however.

Here's how to make sure your wood furniture stays beautiful for years to come.

## HOW OFTEN TO CLEAN WOOD FURNITURE

Dust weekly, Martha Stewart says, and aim to clean and polish wood furniture about once a month. Cleaning wood furniture isn't as complicated as it sounds.

In a bowl, mix warm water and a few drops of dish soap. Dip a microfiber cloth in the solution and wring it out until it's damp, then wipe down the wood furniture. Don't get it too wet. Use a clean cloth to wipe it dry when you're done. Avoid using any abrasive or acidic products, including full-strength vinegar and isopropyl alcohol.

Polish your furniture every six to eight weeks with a natural conditioner. Avoid products with silicon, the website says, because it can attract dust and make cleaning more difficult.

## REMOVING STAINS

Some stains can be removed. For heat stains, Martha Stewart says to place a towel over the stain and apply

an iron on low heat. Rub it back and forth over the towel, checking frequently, until the stain is gone. Denatured alcohol is effective on moisture stains. Put the alcohol on a microfiber towel and rub the stain for a few minutes. Dark stains can come out with

hydrogen peroxide. Mix one part water and one part hydrogen peroxide. Dip a microfiber cloth in the mixture until it is damp, then lay it on the stain for 10-15 minutes. Remove the cloth and let the surface dry.

Sticky residues and stains can be removed with olive oil.

Saturate a cotton swab with olive oil and apply it to the residue.

Use a blow dryer and warm the area while using a cloth to wipe in the direction of the woodgrain until the residue is released. Dab the area with a clean cloth to finish up.

## MAINTAINING WOOD FURNITURE

In addition to regular cleaning, protect your furniture from direct sunlight.

Always use coasters for beverages, and tablecloths to keep your furniture safe from damage.



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# Earth Tones Return

Everything old is new again, and that includes 1970s shades of warm browns. This time around, though, it's paired with classic, clean whites and lighter palettes and textures that are warm and inviting.

## THE NEW GREY

After years of gray walls, gray furnishings and gray textiles, brown is back. Designers say this is because gray can feel cold, and in this post-pandemic era, people are craving warmth and comfort.

“In the ever-evolving world of interior design, trends come and go, but some shifts mark a significant turning point,” said Lesley Taylor, founder of The Baked Tile Company. “And, right now, we are seeing a move away from the once-dominant gray palette toward richer, warmer hues like terracotta, burgundy and brown. This move not only brings a big change in interior design, but also signifies a deeper connection to nature and comfort in our living spaces.”

This year, look for shades of brown, from a light café au lait all the way to deep chocolate. Also look for yellow and gold hues, such as caramel, and reddish browns in



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cinnamon shades. Pair deeper browns with lighter shades or use it with cooler blues or soft greens for a pop of natural warmth.

## GO ORGANIC

Brown naturally lends itself to a variety of materials, such as leather and wood. Look for

furniture pieces in leather such as a sofa or comfortable reading chair. For a smaller investment, look for leather in lighting, hardware or decor with leather details such as handles or lampshades. Wood also comes in a variety of warm browns and can bring a little bit of the outside inside.

Look for striking side pieces such as tables or even smaller pieces, such as vases or accents on furniture.

## LOOK FOR ANTIQUES

A great way to incorporate these hues are by adding antique pieces. The right vintage furniture can add depth

and character to a space, and bring in warmer tones. Mix it up with some contemporary pieces that complement the older look.

In addition to mixing ages, diversify wood tones and finishes to create depth. The right mix can make spaces feel layered and lived in.



# Living & Family Room Designs

Home is where the heart is, and the heart of the home is the living room or family room, wherever your family chooses to gather.

Here are some trends to look for in designing the perfect comfortable space for you and your guests.

## STATEMENT LIGHTING

Gone are the staid, barely there light fixtures. Instead, look for pieces that yell. Layer lighting to add dimension and warmth. Consider a chandelier for the ceiling, then sconces near bookshelves and a reading lamp or accent lighting in seating areas.

## CURVY SEATING

Organic shapes are having a moment in furniture, such as couches with curved backs or the whole seating area curving inwards. These pieces can feel more cozy and intimate, instead of the sleek lines of recent years' minimalism.

"I'm interested in furniture as sculpture — functional pieces that challenge our perception and the ways we interact with them, eliciting an emotion response," says Elle Décor designer Kelly Wearstler.

## ART DECO

Art Deco lines and color palettes are back. Art Deco is



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characterized by a sense of luxury and geometric precision with an emphasis on craftsmanship. Look for geometric patterns in jewel tones, accented by metal accessories or lacquered furniture.

## COMFY COZY

If you can't curl up on it with a good book, lose it. Designers with House Beautiful say clients are calling for

rooms they enjoy year-round, with a comfy rug, daybeds and cushy couches. These comfortable spaces should be great places to cozy up with family and friends.

"Layering of rugs of different textures — such as combining jute with a softer wool or Persian rug — adds visual interest and comfort underfoot, creating a relaxed, lived-in feel," interior designer

Cheryl Clendenon told Better Homes & Gardens.

## STATEMENT SEATING

Look for chairs, settees and sofas that can stand on their own. Channel-tufted upholstery is back on trend, as are warm mixes of textures in pillows, throws and other textiles. Seating should look inviting and be comfortable while also being aesthetically

pleasing.

"We love the idea of 'destination furniture' in a living room and I think we'll see a lot of it this year," designer Heather Peterson told Real Simple. "Additions like a daybed smack in the middle of the room or a desk behind a couch encourage analog activities and allow groups or families to be in the same room but doing different things."

# Caring For Rugs

Rugs add character and warmth to a room, but they require special care to keep them looking their best.

Even if you don't have rugs in high traffic areas, any textile in the home is constantly absorbing indoor air pollutants such as candle smoke, steam from cooking and more.

## REGULAR CLEANING

Regularly vacuum all the rugs in your home and promptly spot-clean any spills or stains, Architectural Digest says. How you clean it beyond that depends on what the rug is made of.

Wool rugs, Architectural Digest experts say, should be cleaned with only a cold water process. Silk or viscose Persian and other rugs should almost always be professionally cleaned.

"You can be much more aggressive when cleaning synthetic rugs as they can handle hot water and stronger cleaner solutions," says Scott Johnston, owner of Carpet Care of the Carolinas in North Carolina.

## DEEP CLEANING

Start with reading the care tag most likely found on the back of your rug. These manufacturers guidelines will tell you the best way to clean the rug. No matter what that label says, spot test your cleaner before



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using it on the whole rug.

Johnston says the first step in cleaning a rug is to take everything off of it and, if possible, take it outside. You can place it on a tarp, drop cloth or large piece of plastic to avoid putting it directly on the ground. Then, remove dirt and debris by vacuuming the rug on both sides. A suction-only

vacuum will remove dirt and particles before they sink in, while a vacuum with a beater bar is effective for removing every last bit of dirt. Brush attachments can remove pet hair.

Use a cleaner made specifically for rugs, not carpets, and follow the directions for mixing it with water. You can use a

mild dish detergent mixed with warm water for synthetic rugs or cold water for wool rugs. Hot water can shrink or fade any rug.

After a successful spot test, work the cleaning solution into a lather on the rug with a sponge or soft bristle brush. Let the cleaner sit for five minutes, then rinse with a garden

hose or buckets of clean water. Make sure the water runs clear before you stop rinsing. Remove excess water with a wet-dry vacuum or run a squeegee in the direction of the nap. Finally, let the rug dry laying flat. Flip it over to dry the bottom as well. Vacuum the rug before returning it inside.



# Choosing Window Treatments

An easy way to add dimension and depth to a room is with the right window treatments. Keep reading to learn more about how to choose the perfect way to shade your room.

## TYPES OF WINDOW TREATMENTS

Window treatments include curtains, drapes, blinds and shades. And while these terms are often used interchangeably, they are very different.

Curtains and drapes are both made of two or more panels of fabric that hang from the top of the window. Curtains are installed over blinds or shades and are typically made from lighter fabrics. They can have room-darkening or even blackout properties. Drapes are made from thicker fabrics and block out more light. They're also more formal in appearance and often extend to the floor.

Blinds are made up of a series of hard, interconnected slats. Shades are usually made of soft materials. The slats on blinds can be manipulated to allow in different lights. Shades are raised and lowered by a pull-cord mechanism, but cannot be manipulated to allow more or less light in through them.

## CURTAIN FEATURES

Curtains can come in plain panels, French door curtains and liners. The panels hang from a rod to the floor in a straight line. French door curtains are gathered in the middle and are designed to cover the middle of the French door for added privacy. They shouldn't swish around when the door moves. Liner curtains are light-filtering curtains that are made to use with more decorative

panels that may not have light-filtering capabilities. They aren't meant to be visible.

Curtains have different headers or top hems. Pinch pleats include stiff pleats attached with clip rings, pin-hooks or back tabs to hold them in place. The size of the pleat depends on the size of the pin. These are more dramatic and traditional in appearance. Tab top curtains hang from fabric tabs on the

top edge. The curtain rod is visible, as it is on grommet curtains, where the rod passes through a series of metal holes in the top of the curtain. Rod pocket curtains hide the rod in a pocket sewn into the top of the curtain.

## TYPES OF BLINDS AND SHADES

In blinds, the slats can run vertically or horizontally. Vertical slats are usually used to cover a large window or

sliding door and move left to right instead of up and down. Shades have more variety. Roman shades form folds as the shade rolls up and are made, very often, from fabric. Cellular or honeycomb shades are made from two layers of accordion-like folds to help insulate the home. Roller shades hang from a roller that pulls the shade up and down, and zebra shades have stripes that allow for different opacities.



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# Bedroom Design Trends

Like the rest of home design, bedrooms are getting more cozy and comfortable this year.

Look for warmer earth-toned colors and features that promote healthful sleep and relaxation.

## COLOR PALETTES

Bedrooms are going away from the cool grays and into rich, warm colors.

“Rich beiges, warm chocolates and subtle terracottas are creating cocoon-like environments that feel both grounding and luxurious,” designer Laura Hammett told Martha Stewart. Also on the color wheel are natural, organic textures such as rattan furniture.

Paint colors of the year for 2025 reflect the gravitation toward earthy colors, as even Pantone tapped Mocha Mousse as its top swatch.

## PATTERN DRENCHING

Similar to color drenching, pattern drenching is led by wallpaper, then with accentuating patterns on other surfaces in the room such as rugs and blankets. You can choose one single pattern and go all out or choose complementary ones. The effect, when done properly, is an ambiance of cozy comfort.

If wallpaper is too much to consider, you can add pattern



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and texture by using raked plaster or textured walls on one or more walls in the space.

The paint color can be integrated into the plaster for a finished look.

## SOFT FURNITURE

Bye, sleek modernism and hello comfy, soft furniture. The more plush, the better.

“These softer silhouettes extend to everything,” Hammett says, “from sculptural side tables to graceful curving consoles, creating a wonderful sense of flow throughout the bedroom.” Look for upholstered headboards and wooden pieces with raw, organic or scalloped trim to soften the space and make it more inviting.

## PERSONALITY POP

Another part of making a room more comfortable is making it more about the people in it.

“The most prominent theme of 2025 will be personal, collected spaces that tell the story of those who live there,” interior designer Lauren Sullivan says. “Think more antique and vintage finds, as well as

incorporating special family heirlooms.”

The bedroom, especially, should reflect a person’s unique personality with spaces, items and furnishings that reflect the owner’s likes and interests. This can be a reading nook or a record cabinet, anything to make the space feel like a natural extension of the lives that take place in it.