

The best indoor and outdoor paint colours now!



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CONFIDENTIAL

As you read this today (Sat., April 7), I'll be talking about the best colours of 2018 at the Spring Home and Garden Show at the Canadian Warplane Heritage Museum in Hamilton. If you can't drop by, here's what you're missing.

It's the refresher season, time to take stock of the state of your

home and plan some improvements. An easy and inexpensive fix is to add a fresh coat of paint to your interior walls.

If you're unhappy with the results, or if you change your mind, you can always repaint. You don't have to be stuck with a colour you don't like.

For some, the most difficult part of the process is choosing colour. That's not a surprise when you consider there are a kajillion tints, tones and shades to choose from.

"What colour should I paint my walls?" is the number one

question I get asked. I usually tell people there is no should in the answer, it's a personal decision and my choice may not be theirs. I also tell them that after years of designing I know which colours can give the best, long lasting results.

Most people think it's the first and biggest decision you can make in design. It's actually the last decision you should make. Yes, you read that correctly.

When building and renovating, colour is the last element we consider. Coordinate your

other finishes and décor first THEN, choose wall colour.

Even if you're not renovating or building, look around the room and choose a paint colour that works with what you have. Since we're not all into monochromatic colour schemes, most of us will pick a neutral that goes with just about everything.

For the exterior, if your whole house needs painting we're talking a few more dollars so you don't want to make a big mistake. Luckily most paint companies have suggestions and visuals on their websites, so you can see the results before you invest in paint.

If you're itching to change the colours of the front door, window trim and garage, I advise you to wait until temperatures are consistently over 10 degrees before you paint your house outside.

Oh, and choose Latex. Oil is rarely an option these days, but there is science to using latex, or water-based paint. Shifting temperatures cause paint to expand and contract and your paint acts as a sealant on the exterior surfaces. Latex can "move" with the fluctuations, oil doesn't react the same, it can crack and peel.

So here are my favourite picks for inside and out. For the interior, the best cream

colours to add a soft neutral scheme are Ballet White and Cake Batter. Best greys? From lightest to darkest, I like Barren Plain, Escarpment and Kendall Charcoal.

Beige is still popular, but with more hints of grey added for modern appeal. I like Stone Hearth, Alexander Beige and Taupe Fedora. The best greens have a strong mix of greys and are softer like Smokey Green, Gray Wisp and Piedmont Gray. I wrote a whole blog post for my website on which white is right, http://www.janelockhart.com/blog/which_white_is_right_white_paint_walls/, but in a nutshell Simply White Decorator's White and Oxford White are my top picks for paint and trim.

Need some blues? My all-time favourite deep blues, are deep blue-grey Mt. Saint Anne and a perfect navy is Hale Navy. Red always makes a statement and these reds are no exception. Use these for your front door, an accent wall or powder room.

I love the colour of the year, Caliente, but close are Louisiana Hot Sauce and Bonaparte Red. All my picks are Benjamin Moore paints www.benjaminmoore.com.

— Jane Lockhart is a celebrity designer, TV personality and a leading expert in the world of design. Visit www.janelockhart.com.



It's the refresher season — time to take stock of the state of your home inside and out, and to plan some improvements.



Jane Lockhart's favourite greys from lightest to darkest are Barren Plain, Escarpment and Kendall Charcoal. (Seen here.)

Always a classic: Clawfoot tubs



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Around since the mid-1800s, clawfoot tubs have been a classic tub style that continues to grace many bathroom designs today.

Offering a traditional style, practical functionality and designed to enhance a long, hot soak the clawfoot tub with its distinctive look may just be the perfect thing to elevate your bathroom.

When originally introduced, clawfoot tubs were designed to copy the furniture of the time period and boasted several versions of the "ball and claw." However, the two most common are the eagle and the lion.

As bathing had become increasingly fashionable in

the 1800s, the craftsmen of the times applied the clawfoot leg design to these beautiful bathtubs that were constructed of cast iron lined with porcelain.

Over recent years, we have seen a resurgence of this tub design, however, the modern versions are often commonly fabricated from acrylic. The true cast iron classic is always most sought after.

It's extremely durable, and keeps the water hot longer. However, cast iron tubs are extremely heavy, when installing you may need to consider reinforcing the floor beneath the tub as a precaution.

One modern day company that honours the more classic approach to clawfoot tubs is Victoria + Albert. Their tubs are crafted from the brand's signature Englishcast composition, a unique blend of a naturally white material that is rich in volcanic limestone

and high-performance resins, which is then hand finished to create a glossy white finish.

This vintage tub can work its way into many different bathroom designs and personal styles. From the traditional to a design boasting a more eclectic and modern blend, or from a country-chic setting to a blended "boho" vibe this tub offers many design possibilities.

The shapes of the clawfoot tubs can range from the traditional roll-top tub, the classic slant back, the double ended tub and the slipper tub or double slipper tub design; each offering their own comfort fit and aesthetic.

Though they are a bit of higher step in than many modern-day tubs, they can easily be adapted as a tub/shower combo as well.

Nothing makes a statement of "old-fashioned luxury" quite like a clawfoot bath.

With a now revival in popularity, it has brought a touch of nostalgia to our modern-day bathrooms.

Create a chic and grand focal point in your bathroom by incorporating a clawfoot tub into your designs — you may be surprised what this classic has to offer.

Tub shopping designer tips:

- 'Test drive' your tub for comfort and size, and ensure it fits your bathroom space.
- As the tubs are freestanding don't feel they necessarily need to be set against a wall.
- Consider enhancing your tub by adding a colour to the exterior

— Linda Mazur is principal of the Linda Mazur Design Group and is known for designs that reflect a rich elegance, timeless style and optimal functionality. Visit www.lindamazurdesign.com.



Recent years have seen the resurgence of the claw-foot tub design. Modern versions are fabricated from acrylic but cast iron remains the most sought after.