

# your home

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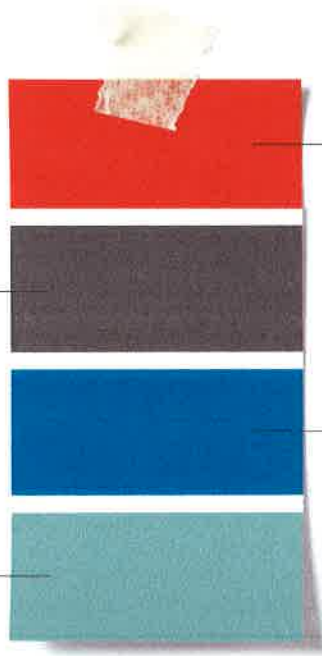
Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

## THE COLORS OF 2018

↘ A new year, a new color. Each year, paint companies name a new color their color of the year, capturing what they see as the trendiest colors on the horizon. Here are the new year's fresh, new colors, according to leading industry brands:

GLIDDEN has named **Deep Onyx** (00NN 07/000)—or classic black—as its color of the year. This favorite neutral may not be right for an entire room, but it's perfect for an accent wall. Pairing this bold choice with crisp whites, metallics and neutral fixtures and furniture will create a beautiful modern, minimalist look.

Behr's **In the Moment** (T18-15) will help calm the senses in the upcoming year. The cool blue hue will evoke a serene, relaxing vibe in virtually any space. Plus, the versatile color pairs well with crisp whites, neutrals and darker fixtures and furniture, making it easy to add decor.



**Caliente** (AF-290) is Benjamin Moore's color for 2018. This deep red is radiant and lush, and will stand out in any space. The bold hue pairs best with neutrals and other bright hues, such as pink, peachy tones. It will work great as an accent color, or to liven up a plain gallery wall or drab staircase.

Sherwin Williams' **Oceanside** (SW 6496) is destined to be a favorite this year. The rich, blue-green shade will make a bold statement outfitting an entire room, or serve as the perfect pop of accent color for a specific item, such as a front door or a piece of old furniture.

## 5 THINGS BUYERS SHOULD NEVER COMPROMISE ON

When buying a home, there are some things you should never compromise on—or you'll likely regret your home purchase, according to Realtor.com.

**1. The floor plan.** It's difficult and expensive to reconfigure a home's floor plan. If a home doesn't have the minimum number of rooms or the flow of the main living areas you want, you should cross it off your list.

**2. The school district.** You should carefully consider your neighborhood's school district, and even get a map of its exact boundaries to make sure your home is within the correct district.

**3. The neighbors.** You should pay attention to the condition of neighboring homes. Not only do you have to live with your neighbors on a daily basis, but they can affect your home's future resale value, too.

**4. The budget.** Consider all the expenses—monthly mortgage payments, homeowner association dues, utility costs and real estate taxes—beyond the list price to make sure you'll be financially comfortable.

**5. The commute.** Test-drive the route between your home and office to be certain you're willing to make the commute every day.



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# LITTLE THINGS MEAN **a lot**



Increasing the value of your home before putting it on the market is important, and your budget shouldn't hold you back. Here are a few, simple tips to improve the look and feel of your home fast—all for under \$400:

**1 Low-maintenance lawn care:** Overgrown lawns and bushes will cause your home to stand out—in a bad way. For a few hundred dollars, hire a landscaping service to tidy up. Adding plants and trees native to your region will also help boost the home's curb appeal.

**2 Deep house cleaning:** Make sure your home says “clean” to potential buyers when they walk in the door. Even if you clean your home regularly, hire a cleaning service for a thorough top-to-bottom scrubbing.

**3 Make your home feel bigger:** You can't change the square-footage of your home, but you can make each room in your house feel larger. A sunny room feels more open—replace heavy drapes with vertical blinds or shutters.

Also, clear the clutter. Add shelving or storage space to help organize.

**4 Replace and update:** Dated wallpaper, old lighting fixtures, popcorn ceilings and broken features, such as ceiling fans, could turn many buyers away. Making these changes will add dollar signs to the value of your home instantly.

**5 Add money-saving efficiencies:** Updates to make your home more energy-efficient are a big bonus for buyers because it will save them money in the long term. Many utility companies provide free energy audits so they can show you how to maximize the energy efficiency of your home. Installing a water filtration system is an inexpensive addition that will also lower the buyer's grocery bills—no more bottled water.

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