

Pantone Color of the Year

Hope springs eternal, it is said. And since 2021 promises hope, a fresh look for spring can also help brighten your outlook. The color experts at Pantone have fully embraced this aesthetic with their color of the year: Ultimate Gray and Illuminating.

This “marriage,” Pantone said, is a great combination to set the mood in any room in the home, adding a dose of sunshine and positivity. The company suggests its use in a truly aspirational and inspirational way:

Painting a front door in bright yellow Illuminating conveys a warm and welcoming message when supported by solid and dependable Ultimate Gray in the exterior finishes, they suggest. The combination can also work for any office, whether in the home or in a commercial space, with Ultimate Gray providing the firm foundation for Illuminating, a vibrant yellow that heightens awareness and enhances intuition, lighting the



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REAL ESTATE 101

Buying a Home in 2021

If you're planning to buy a home in 2021, expect to be shocked by prices and lack of inventory. One of the best ways to prepare is to get pre-approved with a bank or mortgage lender. To determine what you can afford, follow these helpful tips provided by the Truth About Mortgage at bit.ly/2N0PcUq.

way to the intellectual curiosity, originality and resourcefulness of an open mind.

Even if you don't have such high hopes, Pantone's colors of the year are incorporated in all manner of applications across the design spectrum, from paint and fabric, graphics and multimedia to makeup and home decor. Chances are you'll see these colors

somewhere in 2021, so if you're interested in updating a room here are some tips on application.

Color trends come and go, say the experts at Better Homes & Gardens, so one of the best ways to incorporate them is with accessories that you can easily and inexpensively swap out. The magazine suggests starting with pillows,

area rugs, throw blankets, wall art and other accessories as a simple way to try out the colors without going all-in on new furniture or wall paint right away. By starting small, you'll get a sense of how the colors work. Then you can go big if you really love it.

Indeed, some professional designers think the colors are too rich to apply to entire

room, so accents might be a smart choice to stay on-trend.

But some ways to go big and not overwhelm include adding Illuminating yellow drapes in a sunroom or accenting a wood table with yellow chair with gray tiles in the background, according to Renae Keller, a designer quoted in an article appearing recently in the Minneapolis Star-Tribune.

If you'd like to bring out the paint brush, Pantone suggests you paint your front door with sunny Illuminating. “Painting a front door in bright yellow Illuminating conveys a warm and welcoming message when supported by solid and dependable Ultimate Gray in the exterior finishes,” Pantone explained.

Indoors, the kitchen is the obvious room to use these colors in accents because, Pantone said, Ultimate Gray represents natural colors that stand the test of time, and you can rest assured that this enduring hue will never go out of style. Consider brushing it on the walls or cabinets in your kitchen. Add bursts of yellow with tea towels or canisters.

Because Illuminating is both vivacious and warming and Ultimate Gray is solid and dependable, there are many ways to experiment and bring some of that aspirational feeling to your home for the new year.



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HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Payment cap: The most that a monthly mortgage payment can be increased on an adjustable rate loan mortgage. SOURCE: MLS.com

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