

# BLACK IS BACK!

Up the ante in your home with this timeless and dramatic colour.



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Whether dominating an entire room or used sparingly to add a touch of drama, there's no doubt that incorporating trendy black in your décor will pack a punch.

"People seem to be moving out of their comfort zone when it comes to colour and this trend has been gaining momentum for some time now," says Lizemari Möller, brand manager at Duram. "With increased access to inspirational platforms such as Instagram and Pinterest, our creative sides are stimulated more and more and this has

opened up a whole new world of being brave with colour. At the end of the bravery spectrum is black." In fact, it's now considered the 'new neutral'.

"Black works well as a neutral because of its versatility," says Palesa Ramaisa of Dulux. "And it's no longer only used sparingly; an entire room painted black serves as a stunning backdrop for décor. It also acts as a brilliant companion to a range of accent colours from sorbet shades and jewel tones to other neutrals and, of

course, you can combine it with white for a classic look."

Black's versatility also extends to the interior styles it suits. "Black and dark charcoals can update a tired Georgian interior or add drama to a French look – it breathes modernity into dated interiors and works equally well in minimalist or industrial-style homes," says Sandra Larkin, an interior designer and colour specialist with Versus Paints. Take a look at how these readers have used black in their homes...

# #1 A whole lot of soul

They wanted a classic but sexy look for their newly built guest bathroom in their Parkmore home, so Jo'burg couple Tammy and Alistair Holmes began by painting all the walls a deep charcoal. "Bathrooms with their straight lines and hard edges can often appear cold," says Tammy. "We wanted to create a soulful sanctuary and knew the rich, dark walls would do the trick.

"I introduced pieces that would really pop against the black and add warmth, like an orange Roman blind, gold accessories and chandelier (see inset)."

On the floor Tammy opted for Moroccan tiles in a lighter shade to 'break' the black on the walls. >>

Floor tiles from Union Tiles; black vanity from Lots and Crates; round mirror from MRP Home; gold tray and glasses from @home

## Paint colour

Plascon Bovine



## It's in the detail

The small vanity couldn't accommodate the basin mixer so it was wall-mounted; this adds another interesting element against the dark walls.

## STYLE GUIDELINES

Tammy, the owner of Ivy Décor & Design, offers these tips for decorating with black:

- Dark hues are great for small spaces because they make the lines in a room 'disappear', especially if teamed with touches of colour that draw the eye.
- White, gold and neutrals work well against black; add one different colour for an element of surprise.
- If you're keen to include black furniture and accessories in a space with black walls, go for a lighter charcoal on the walls. My favourites are Plascon Bovine and Earthcote Ja Boetie Johan – they both add warmth and depth.

