



## *Tried & True Tips to Improve the Value of Your Home... Perk Up Your Paint!*

**By Dana Green**

Nothing improves the overall look of a home quite like a fresh coat of paint. Whether the inside, outside or both, paint is quite simply a cost-effective approach to freshen up your house. If you are considering selling your home, this should top your to-do list. New paint will increase your value and lesson your time on the market.

For interior paint, tackle one room at a time and don't move on until you're completely satisfied. Don't be afraid to step out of your color box and try something a little more intense. Designers use the "60-30-10" rule, 60% of color in a room comes from walls; 30%

from upholstery, floor coverings or window treatments; and 10% from accent pieces or artwork. Although color is important to build character, remember this ratio when making your decision to ensure you avoid color overload!

Don't rush the process of painting as color tends to make or break a room. Paint a swatch on the wall of the color you are considering and live with it for a few days to see what it looks like in different lighting. It is important to take the extra time to ensure you are choosing a color you can live with. If you are color challenged or don't trust your design skills, consider hiring an expert. For a



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few hundred dollars, your colors will be selected and the stress of painting will be eliminated.

**Tried & True Interior Paint Colors by Benjamin Moore:**

1. Chestertown Buff
2. Barley
3. Greenbrier Beige

**Tip:**

Pottery Barn and Benjamin Moore have teamed up and created a wonderful selection of paints to choose from. Order your Spring "fan deck" of paint samples at <http://www.potterybarn.com/products/p7916/index.cfm> for \$2 or stop by the Walnut Creek Pottery Barn store to pick one up for free.