

Homeowner's Guide to Paint Color, Sheen, & Accent Walls

Part 1: The Paint Color & Sheen Guide



Choosing the right color is only half the battle; selecting the correct **paint sheen** determines how long your paint job will last and how easy it is to clean. Use this quick reference guide for your next interior project.

Understanding Paint Sheens

- **Matte / Flat**
 - *Finish:* Zero-gloss, velvet-like appearance that absorbs light.
 - *Best For:* Low-traffic ceilings and adult bedrooms.
 - *Pros/Cons:* Hides drywall imperfections beautifully, but scratches and stains easily and is difficult to wipe clean.
- **Eggshell**
 - *Finish:* A soft, low-luster sheen with a faint hint of warmth.
 - *Best For:* Living rooms, dining rooms, and low-to-medium traffic bedrooms.
 - *Pros/Cons:* The sweet spot for wall paint—offers a washable surface without creating harsh light reflections.
- **Satin**
 - *Finish:* A smooth, pearl-like glossier sheen.

- *Best For:* Hallways, entryways, children's rooms, and family spaces.
- *Pros/Cons:* Highly durable and resists moisture/scrubbing well, but will highlight minor wall flaws or bad prep work.
- **Semi-Gloss & High-Gloss**
 - *Finish:* Highly reflective, sleek, and hard surfaces.
 - *Best For:* Trim, baseboards, doors, crown molding, and kitchen cabinets.
 - *Pros/Cons:* Extremely durable against moisture, grease, and heavy impact, but requires meticulous surface prep because every flaw shows.

Pro Tips for Color Selection

- **Test Before You Commit:** Always paint a 2x2 foot swatch on the actual wall and observe it in both morning daylight and evening artificial light. Colors shift dramatically depending on the room's natural exposure.
- **Stick to a Cohesive Flow:** Keep trim color consistent throughout the house to create an intentional, high-end look while playing with different sheens and wall colors room-by-room.

Part 2: Accent Wall Style & Cost Estimator



An accent wall is the fastest way to completely transform the energy of a room without committing to a full-house renovation.

Popular Accent Wall Styles

- **The Modern Slat Wall:** Vertical wood slats (often natural oak or painted black/dark charcoal) that add organic warmth, texture, and architectural height behind a bed or TV mount.

- **Board and Batten / Grid Work:** Classic or contemporary geometric framing applied directly to the drywall, creating deep shadows and custom architectural character in dining rooms or entryways.
- **Two-Tone Color Block:** A bold, contrasting solid paint color on a single focal wall paired with neutral tones on the surrounding walls.



Accent Wall & Interior Painting Estimator

- **Custom Accent Wall Package**
 - *Typical Scope:* Standard feature wall (approx. 10x12 room dimensions, walls only) featuring custom woodwork or specialized geometric patterns.
 - *Estimated Investment:* Starting at **\$250** for labor and layout design, scaling up depending on materials and intricate woodwork detail.
- **Flat-Rate Room Painting Package**
 - *Typical Scope:* Complete standard room interior painting (walls only, standard prep, up to 10x12 room dimensions).
 - *Estimated Investment:* **\$400 flat rate.** Includes professional edge work, clean execution, and no messy cleanup left behind.