



top tip

An extreme colour such as black often calls for an extreme finish – choose an absolute matt finish to appear velvety and luscious. A high-gloss finish gives a feeling of glamour and helps reflect light.

Resene Half
White Pointer 



black magic

We may be known for our love of black clothing, but it seems we also love this colour in our homes. It's a brave person who paints their interiors in black, but the colour – or at least its many subtle shades from the Resene paint palette – is increasingly popping up in living rooms, bedrooms and even bathrooms. Black is smart, sophisticated, dramatic, masculine, moody and urbane.

As with any dark colour, black will make a room appear smaller and more enclosed. It's superb for a room that's more likely to be used in the evening, such as a media or TV room, or a bedroom. Well-planned lighting can heighten the effect of black, by casting a wash of soft light over a wall or even diffusing sunlight through sheer curtains.

Not all blacks are created equal. Some have a touch of brown, some a touch of green (Resene Swamp), blue (Resene Bastille) or white (Resene Shark). Ask a staff member at your local Resene ColorShop to decipher the numbered code underneath the colour swatch.

Chalk it up with blackboard paint


The ultimate practical black finish is Resene Blackboard Paint. Paint an entire wall in a child's room, the back of a




kitchen island bench, or frame up part of a wall as a more traditional-style blackboard. Add another dimension by painting Resene Magnetic Magic underneath so you can use it as a magnetic noticeboard as well.

Black started showing up on exteriors a while ago. Resene Bokara Grey is particularly popular for this, as it's not absolute black and has a delicious touch of coffee-bean brown in it. Black lends a crisp contemporary edge to modern architecture, or a romantic cast to bungalows and cottages, especially when teamed with white architraves and joinery.


Beware! If you're using dark colours on the exterior of a house, consider using a Resene CoolColour version of your colour, which reflects more of the sun's heat to keep the paint, surface and building cooler.

Resene Nero 

Resene Gravel 

Resene Double Gravel 

Resene Blackboard Paint 

Resene Alabaster 

Clockwise from top left: Resene Nero kitchen walls with Resene Alabaster cabinets. Resene Blackboard Paint walls. Resene Gravel weatherboards, Resene Double Gravel guttering, Resene Half White Pointer trims. Resene Nero living room; designed by Suzie Fraser for Simonds Homes.