

Mixed, NOT MATCHED



If you like to entertain, benches are an excellent option for squeezing in a few extra guests. **Bench seat** in 'Resene Innocence'. **Stool** in 'Resene Woodland'. **Wall** in 'Resene Bud'. **Side wall** in 'Resene Siam'. **Floor** in 'Resene Cargo'. **Plant pot** in 'Resene Mai Tai'. **Wall hanging** in 'Resene Rusty Nail'.

In an otherwise white room, add colour to your furniture by painting one chair Resene Green Meets Blue, another in Resene Unwind and the rest in Resene Poured Milk. The walls, cabinets and ceilings in this kitchen and dining area are painted Resene Alabaster.



We've all seen those perfectly manicured dining rooms on TV, in movies and catalogues – the highly-polished wooden table complete with matching chairs and carefully curated china. While spaces like these are certainly stately, most of us don't have the time or energy to create that in our own homes. Not only is an eclectic dining room more in tune with current trends, it's cosier and more comfortable. By choosing a more casual setup, your dining room will be the kind of place where your family and friends can sit back, pop open a bottle of bubbles and hang out, long after the dessert has been polished off. With these simple tips, you can easily turn a dreary dining room into a style-savvy space in no time.

BLEND SEATING STYLES

One of the easiest ways to spruce up your dining space is by adding mismatched chairs. Try a mixture of chairs and stools, stools and benches, or just mix up the styles of chairs themselves. Contemporary and vintage can look fantastic together if they have something in common, whether it's colour, shape or matching metallic details. If the chairs you want to incorporate are wildly different styles, it's smart to stick with a single colour on your

seating for uniformity, but use a different tone on your table for added interest and contrast. Try chairs in a spicy red, such as Resene Salsa or Resene Raging Bull to pair with a table in Resene Jarrah; or go for a sophisticated monochrome theme with chairs in Resene Noir, Resene Charcoal or Resene Colorwood Pitch Black waterborne wood stain, and then a table in Resene Quarter Merino, Resene Half Black White or Resene Colorwood Whitewash. Your chairs don't have to be completely different styles to fit the trend. Seek out chairs for the head of the table that look similar to the rest of the set, but are just different enough to add some nuance to the room. Or if you have a set of chairs that match but are lacking personality, why not paint each a different colour using Resene testpots, and let each family member pick out their favourite?





A large-scale wallpaper mural is another way to make a statement in a dining space and can be helpful for setting the colour palette. For a well-travelled look, try Resene Wallpaper Collection P015-VD4 with surrounding walls and trim in Resene Half Rice Cake, an accent wall in Resene Peace, timber floors in Resene Colorwood Natural waterborne wood stain and mix in some emerald and terracotta coloured accessories in Resene Atlas and Resene Raging Bull.

Interior designer Becky Lee's refinished an antique dining table in Resene Super Gloss enamel tinted to eye-catching Resene Smitten.

THINK BEYOND FURNITURE

Your colour ideas don't need to be limited to the furniture – make table runners from Resene wallpaper, paint tabletop accessories in Resene testpots and paint or stain the flooring.

MIX MATERIALS

Don't be afraid to mix up the materials in your dining set. If you like an eclectic look, try mixing woods with metal, melamine, plastics or concrete. If your room is full of bold colours or prints, clear acrylic or lucite chairs will keep the seating from competing for attention. Remember that surface prep is extremely important and that materials of different types – and ages – will require different preparations. If your chairs have a melamine or a very smooth finish, start with Resene Waterborne Smooth Surface Sealer. Rejuvenate timber chairs and tables with Resene Colorwood, or, if the wood grain isn't worth saving, paint over them for a fresh new look. To give antique metal a pick-me-up, try a Resene FX Metallic finish to add a blast of silver or metallic grey. If you're unsure where to start, check out the Resene Fun with Furniture step-by-step projects on the Resene website, or ask staff at your local Resene ColorShop.

GET CREATIVE WITH COLOUR

The best mismatched dining room looks are achieved by boldly working with a mixture of different hues. If you're worried about having too many competing colours but still want to experiment with a mismatched look, try using different strengths – for example, paint your chairs in your favourite Resene hue tinted to eighth, quarter, half, full, double and triple strength. Taking a two-tone approach to your walls can also add visual interest and enrich the appeal of the room. For a timeless look, try Resene Triple Duck Egg Blue with Resene Half Duck Egg Blue. For a mix of on-trend earthy greens, look to Resene Mother Nature and Resene Rivergum. Alternatively, go for deep moody blues with a smouldering sapphire like Resene Indian Ink paired with Resene Bunting.

COMBINATIONS TO TRY

Try a mix of tone-on-tone coastal blues



Or a fun scheme that pops



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