

Better Homes and Gardens®

Time-Saving Dinners
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Easy Grilling

Flavor Twists for Cookout Favorites

PLUS Yummy Desserts from Our New Recipe-Sharing Site

7 Fast Ways to Restyle Your Deck

Celebrate! Easy Ideas for July Gatherings

How to Make Ice Cream Plus Tons of Ideas for Summer Fun!



> Grilled Corn with Green Tomato Salsa p.180



Inky Blues are truly captivating. Buried deep in our national psyche—think blue jeans and the “red, white, and blue”—these colors suit nearly every style and every palette.



Wall color:
Star Spangled
590D-7;
behr.com



blue magic

Sky blue, step aside. It's time for a bolder, brighter shade to gain the spotlight. “These inky blues are extremely lively and hot,” says L.A.-based interior designer Sasha Emerson.

NEW NEUTRAL “I use blue as a base color the way some might use brown or black,” says Emerson. “I’m blue-obsessed!” For example, she may paint a room blue, then mix blue upholstered pieces with white or gray, and add touches of yellow, green, and orange.

PICKING FAVORITES When choosing a blue, consider how often you’re in the room. “I wouldn’t choose a very bold blue for a living room—you might tire of that,” says Emerson. Save that for a den or playroom and pick a more serene tone for central living spaces.

WOODEN REPLY Thankfully, blue goes with almost any wood trim. The paler the blue, the more versatile, but for a foolproof option, “any blue with walnut wood is so gorgeous,” Emerson says.



Medium bowl set (4 pieces), \$25; zak.com. Blue vine and flower tablecloth (60"×90"), \$48; tenthousandvillages.com. Patience pillow, \$85; blisslivinghome.com. Garden Treasures blue wicker chair, \$59; lowes.com. Reclaimed indigo oriental rug (4'×6'), \$49; vivaterra.com.





Sasha's favorite blue palettes

FUCHSIA + PALE PINK

For a playful candy-color combo, pair a saturated sky blue with vivacious fuchsia and a pale peony shade in 70-20-10 proportions. Try it in an entryway or breakfast nook.

Grenadine SW 6592;
sherwin-williams.com

Peony Bloom A3-4;
dutchboy.com

Blue Burst 4008-10B;
valspar.com

GRAY + PALE CANARY

To tap into blue's soothing qualities in a bedroom or living room, use a deep peacock tone and oyster gray in equal quantities. Add a dose of soft yellow for warmth. 🏠

Toque White SW 7003;
sherwin-williams.com

Electric Yellow 13B4;
truevaluepaints.com

Gulf Grandeur 253-7;
pittsburghpaints.com