

# How to handle COLOUR

The first, and perhaps, most problematic area to tackle when improving a home's interior is colour. How much to use, what and where? Interior designer Liz Cox has the answers

Working with colour in the home can be difficult and intimidating. How much colour to use? Where to put the colour? Which colours are the right ones for the room? I've seen a lot of examples where people just don't know how to work with colour.

Most people fit into one of these three categories:

**1** Those who love colour, can't get enough of it and put it everywhere. They tend to go overboard, which can result in a chaotic colour mess. When you walk into their spaces you see everything and nothing. You are assaulted by so much colour that it loses its impact and your eye ricochets around the room. There isn't an anchor.

**2** Those who are colour averse and shun all colour, opting for neutral or achromatic rooms tend to end up with flat, dull spaces. Even neutral colour schemes benefit from having a little colour to provide depth and bring the design to life.

**3** Those in the middle who have an appetite for colour but don't know how to make it work. This article is designed to help those in the middle and here are a couple of top tips that will help you get the colour balance right in your home.

**Repeat a colour at least three times in a room**

Colour should be repeated a minimum of three times in a room to make it feel like it belongs in the space. Avoid introducing a new colour that sits like a random, isolated island and relates to nothing else in the room.



**Top**, in this dining room the colours gold, blue/grey, red and white are repeated at least three times each throughout all the space – don't ignore the ceiling, it's a great place for colour too. Can you spot the repeated use of all the colours? Above, the same principles are seen in this home office; yellow is repeated in the curtains, cushions and books and green-

beige, yellow-beige, whites and wood tones are repeated at least three times each. If you look carefully you'll spot that there are several different whites that have been used by the designer – namely, true-white, off-white, and cream, but each has been repeated at least three times so they all work perfectly in the space.