

Warm up your winter with whites



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THE DESIGN FEED

Red is everywhere in the winter, especially as people look for spicy colours to add a little heat to their homes.

However, the hottest decor trend (with the most staying power) is the mix of whites with off-whites, for a subtle sophistication that blends sleek modernism with a welcoming attitude. After all — Simply White (#0C-117) — is Benjamin Moore's colour of the year!

Here are some of my top tips for working with these pale shades drawn from a condo renovation I recently completed in downtown Toronto.

Crisp white

I often like to start a project off with an all-over paint colour in a single white or offwhite shade — ceiling included — to create a uniform palette.

Choosing a singular treatment ties the surfaces together for a seamless look that allows the space to feel as large as possible, while blending away imperfections.

Here a coordinated sheer window treatment continues the effect so the walls seem to float away.

Benjamin Moore's Chantilly Lace (#2121-70) has been a go-to clean white for me for years, although I have recently

fallen in love with Distant Grey (#2124-70) with its crisp hint of grey for subtle depth.

Rich cream

They say black is always the new black, but the 'off-white kitchen' may very well become the 'white kitchen' of the future.

On a glossy modern cabinet, a rich creamy colour doesn't feel stuffy or traditional but simply luxe and inviting, especially as a departure from surrounding white walls. Sleek silvery hardware keeps the look bright and sparkling-clean.

Here, I coordinated dining chairs in a similar creamy shade of upholstery. Again, the modern shape plus the traditional heritage hue makes for a welcoming look that invites you to dine — but with your elbows allowed on the table.

Disappearing acts

Clear finishes like glass and lucite are holding strong as a trend, especially for large items in a more compact space.

A visually vanishing coffee

table helps keep a sitting area feel airy and open, and acts like a display case for items stashed on the lower level (while keeping the top open for setting down a drink or resting your feet).

Polished aluminum is another great material for helping pieces disappear, creating a mirror-like finish to make a dining table or end tables look as light as possible, with a hint of glam.

Cloud-like accents

Chunky accents are 'in' in both fashion and decor, and using whites is an excellent way to take block shapes and keep them from feeling off-balance.

Oversized rectangular shades can make virtually any lamp feel updated, and in simple white, they feel hotel-chic with just the right amount of drama.

To continue the hotel-inspired look, try white accent pillows for a sofa, especially a sophisticated grey one like this.

It brings the peace and elegance of the bedroom to the living room, and the cases can easily be unzipped for cleaning

or replaced after a spill — much easier than trying to maintain a pristine white couch!

Flying carpets

A pale carpet is a perfect counterpoint to deep espresso floors, letting the wood be a weighty anchor to the space but breaking it up to avoid absorbing too much light.

Plus, in a space with white or light walls, bringing a similar shade into the centre of the room helps tie the palette together for a subtle sense of harmony.

Alternately, break up a dark space by floating a white ceramic stool-table or two, using them as cocktail tables or extra seats as needed. After all, sometimes the ultimate pop of colour is a brilliant, beautiful white!

— Looking for more design inspiration to lighten your mood? Head over to [tidg.ca](#) for project photos, and find Yanic on Twitter and Instagram at [@yanicsimard](#).

QUICK BITES

1. Try Benjamin Moore's Distant Grey (2124-70) as a crisp go-to colour for both walls and ceilings.
2. Warm up your kitchen all year with an off-white shade made modern in a lacquer finish.
3. Give heavy furniture a breezy vibe with glass, lucite, and mirror-like metallics.
4. Try chunky accents in cloudy white, like block lamps and oversized vases.
5. Let a light-coloured carpet play against rich flooring for an all-over airy atmosphere.



Choosing a singular treatment ties the surfaces together for a seamless look.



Give heavy furniture a breezy vibe with glass, lucite and mirror-like metallics.



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