

Update it

Decorating
with colour

Golden glow



Reminiscent of autumn leaves, earthy pigments and late-afternoon sunlight, yellow tones imbue your home, inside and out, with warmth and energy

Like a ray of sunshine, golden yellow is a perennially cheerful colour that infuses every space it touches with enormous amounts of warmth.

The on-trend variations of this Pollyanna hue range from deep ochres and spicy mustards to golden, buttery yellows such as amber, honey and butterscotch.

“These deep, mysterious yellows bring a gentle heat to our homes, creating a nurturing and warm atmosphere,” says Yelda Adal-Hall from A Sense of Style Interiors (asenseofstyle.com.au). “They’re used less often than brighter yellows because we tend to be cautious about how to make them work, but once you start, it’s hard to stop! These mustards, ochres and muddy yellows have a mystery to them that the brighter yellows don’t.”



Cabinetry in Taubmans Husk Gold

Mustard yellow creates a warm atmosphere

Taubmans Gone Bananas



Suit your style

Whether you’re a traditionalist, modernist or you have a flair for retro, there’s a golden hue for you. “Deep yellows sing in retro-style spaces,” says Rachel Rimmer, founder of colour consultancy Hello Colour (hellocolour.com.au). “They bring in warmth by the bucketload and work so well with exposed brick elements and warm timber tones.”

For modern spaces, Rachel suggests a dash of mustard to bring an earthy richness to a minimalist palette. “People are often surprised how well rich yellows work in contemporary spaces,” she says. “Rich yellow adds zing and freshness to combinations of white, grey and black.”

Lighten up a space

Deep yellows suit rooms that lack natural light. “In any rooms facing south, yellows are a great opportunity to create more light reflectance,” says Andrea Lucena-Orr, ▶

← Let the sunshine in

Background: British Paints Clean & Protect semi gloss **interior paint** in Crazy Daisy, \$37.50/1L, I/N: 0093352. Superfresco Easy ‘Innocence’ 52cm x 10m **wallpaper** in Yellow, \$61.70, I/N: 1662920. Superfresco Easy ‘Trianglolin’ 52cm x 10m **wallpaper** in Mustard, \$61.70, I/N: 1662898. **Top to bottom, left to right:** Uni-Pro ‘The Little Ripper’ 85mm **mini foam roller cover and frame**, \$6.58, I/N: 1660164, in British Paints Crazy Daisy. Stanley 8m **tape measure**, \$9.98, I/N: 5660378. Brilliant ‘Kent’ 180cm **pendant suspension kit** in Yellow, \$12.60, I/N: 7071901, with Verve Design 25W G95 E27 vintage decorative **globe**, \$8.90, I/N: 4340443. Taubmans **swatches** (from top) in Enterprising, Brass Mesh, Rocket Launch and Texas Gold. British Paints **swatch** in Golden Butter. DTA **scrubbing sponges**, \$8.92 each, I/N: 6826787. Northcote Pottery ‘Diego’ 13cm x 13cm **pot** in Mustard, \$8.98, I/N: 0084730. Otto wash **tape** in Yellow, Officeworks. Laiton **spoons** from 16-piece cutlery set, Kmart, dipped in (from top) Taubmans Golden Yarrow, Taubmans Yukon Gold and British Paints Abundant Harvest. **Paint pot:** British Paints in Golden Butter. Boyle small plywood **caddy**, \$6.98, I/N: 1662716, in Taubmans Golden Yarrow. **Reading glasses** in Yellow, Officeworks. QEP **tile wedges**, \$8.21/pack of 500, I/N: 6821931. Flowers and wooden bowl, stylist’s own. Some products are not available at all Bunnings stores, but may be ordered.

Words Vanessa Keys. Photography Taubmans. (Opposite page) Sue Stubbs. Stylist Tilly Roberts. Paint colours may vary on application.

Update it



Wall in Dulux Buttercookie



Light yellow tiles brighten up a modern bathroom



Showcase a colour like Taubmans Gold Chateau on a section of wall for striking results



Mustard accessories pick up the yellow pops in this Superfresco Easy Radiance Grey/Ochre wallpaper

EXPERT TIP



“Deep yellows can be used in most spaces, as there are so many varieties of tone and shade”

Andrea Lucena-Orr Dulux

colour expert at Dulux, who suggests a mid-tone earthy yellow like Dulux Golden Grain to bring in sunshine. “If your room is facing north or west, be aware that yellows can create a striking brightness and can be straining on the eyes over long periods. In this case, use yellows in smaller volumes and choose hues with a more muddled undertone,” she says.

Mix and match

Inspired by sun-drenched summers in Provence, artist Vincent Van Gogh painted mustard-yellow sunflowers and fields of

buttery corn set against deep-blue skies. “Blues and greens will always go with yellow because they create balance and contrast,” explains Yelda Adal-Hall. “Think of warm ochre against cool turquoise and you’ll feel the warmth and a refreshing coolness all at once.”

It’s also important to think beyond the traditional pairings. Darker yellows such as mustard look fabulous paired with softer colours like beige and peach, says colour consultant Rachel Rimmer, who also recommends pairing mustard with dark navy. “Rich yellow always looks amazing

with its spicy counterparts – orange, red and brown,” she says. “Exotic and dramatic, this combination is warm and wonderful.”

Yellow’s warming properties also work wonders in utilitarian rooms such as the kitchen and bathroom, where materials and finishes tend to be monochromatic. “Yellow provokes a sense of awareness, as it brightens everything around it,” explains Lauren Radell, colour technologist for Taubmans. “So a deep golden-yellow feature wall in the kitchen will go a long way to warming up timber benchtops and stone finishes.”



Crisp white is the perfect foil for richer yellows

Choose carefully

"I like to think there's a deep yellow that can work with most colours," says Rachel. "Sometimes a smokier option works best, sometimes you may need a brighter hue." She advises approaching yellow-greens with care so you get a feeling of freshness and not a sickly vibe. For interior designer Yelda, the most successful colour palettes have a mix of cool and warm colours, providing balance and contrast. "Avoid large amounts of reds and oranges with deep yellows, as you'll have too many warm colours trying to dominate," she says.

Check your undertones

Undertones happen when you blend two or more colours together – the dominant colour is the one you see. You don't tend to see undertones until you compare them to another colour, which is why it's important to pick your finishes all at once. "Muddied, golden and ginger yellows tend to have slightly green and brownish undertones," says Andrea. She recommends pairing with a colour that has a similar undertone, such as a natural grey or beige. And as always, sample pots are your best bet for fine-tuning the perfect colour selection.

The great outdoors

Before you select a yellow for your exterior, make a note of which direction your home faces. North-facing loves cool colours while south-facing works best with warm colours, such as deep yellows. "Consider rendering retaining walls with a deep yellow in a textured finish such as Dulux Red Ochre – it will create contrast against the freshness of greenery," says Yelda. If you're unsure, you can't go wrong with a yellow front door. For a bold look, go for a buttery shade; for a more grounded feel, try earthy hues such as terracotta, amber and rust. ♦

Your colour palette: shades of yellow

Brighten up your whole home by adding touches or swathes of yellow, from pale to deep hues

- 1 British Paints Liquid Gold
- 2 Taubmans Daffodil Glow
- 3 British Paints High Alert
- 4 Dulux Soft Straw
- 5 Taubmans Lemon Light

