

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
5900-7
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.

