

THE *Little Black Dress* OF INTERIORS

The little black dress is the epitome of elegance and style. Famously worn by Audrey Hepburn and emulated by women around the world, black is one shade that oozes style and will always be a staple in both the fashion and interior world.



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A great hue for interiors as it adds strong tonal contrast to a scheme, a touch of black in homewares like lampshades or picture frames can be enough to make an elegant statement – and some black painted furniture will take the look further. Built-in bookcases look particularly striking painted in black and this will work with any neutral backdrop from a warm taupe through to a green-based ecru. Use black with pure white and it will create a very strong tonal contrast from the lightest on the scale to the darkest – a classic combination.

In contemporary design, black is used to a greater degree – wallpaper designs in varying tones of black and grey look chic as do soft furnishings in black linen or velvet. As with any dark tone, black will change the mood of the room and make it appear smaller, particularly if used on a wall.

One of the greatest advantages of black is that it can be successfully used with colour. A popular colour this season is chartreuse – a lime green that is almost yellow. On trend for summer fashion, chartreuse also looks stunning in interiors with black and creates a modern statement.

Black and dark grey can be difficult colours to get right in paint. Resene has a good range of blacks and dark greys that do not go blue as they get lighter. Try Resene Bokara Grey which is almost black but not quite as heavy, or Resene Blackout for a warmer look which, in some lights, can look slightly dark brown. Resene Ironsand is a chic off-black and True Black is fantastic too. Use these dark colours in an interior scheme in a matt finish to absorb even more light or use a satin finish rather than a gloss to maintain an elegant look.

Resene
Ironsand

Resene Black

Resene
Bokara
Grey

Resene
Blackout