

SOFT NEUTRAL ON THE OUTSIDE

Colour consultant Samantha Bacon thinks it's important to consider the environment around you when selecting colours for your house's exterior. Wonderful natural palettes can be found in the garden or bushland, including endless combinations of browns, whites and greens.



For an overall country-style look, a house that blends in to the natural environment is preferable to anything garish, which can look like a blot on the landscape. The key to choosing the right colour is to select one that appears a bit dreary at first glance. An exterior colour that contains grey can look unappealing inside, but when washed with sunlight – particularly in north and west-facing aspects – the shade changes into a pleasing hue, making it an ideal choice.

Pretty weatherboard houses can be painted in a wide range of colours, but rendered homes need more careful consideration, including an understanding of the range of neutrals available. Soft, warm camel colours work well on Australian exteriors, particularly when partnered with a trim in fresh white. An excellent alternative is to try charcoal blue as an accent colour. Cooler neutral greens are also a

great option for the outside of a house and go well with a white trim, or for something different, try a dusky purple for the trim. Natural linen and deep olive hues are also good choices as they are derived from nature and suit the country look perfectly.

Dulux textured paints work well on rendered walls as they provide a soft and interesting finish that's better looking than the standard low-sheen ones. The Tuscan Effects range for exteriors gives a look similar to limewash but without the streaks, creating an aged look that is very appealing for country-style homes. Medium-textured finishes also help soften flat-rendered walls and are particularly useful for feature walls in outdoor room settings. Dulux Aviva is a fantastic neutral shade while Tibetan Silk is darker and could be used on corbelling or pillars. Try Handmade Linen for eaves and fascia boards, with a quarter-strength wash of it for crisp white window trims.



▲ Dulux Weathershield paint in Aviva, Tibetan Silk and Handmade Linen.

▶ A rendered courtyard wall painted with Dulux Texture in Aviva.

