

# House *beautiful*

**Good colours make good neighbours, so make sure a fresh new colour for your home fits your streetscape.**

There are two good reasons to refresh the outside of your house from time to time. One is that paint protects. The right protective coating will help exterior surfaces last longer. The other is the same reason you decorate the inside of your home. It looks good and lets you express something of yourself.

Outside, it's not just the house you'll be decorating. This new look may include decks, fences, gazebos and the garage. They will all look better if the same colour palette is shared.

Most residential streets have a style of their own, a look that is part of the reason people like living in their community. So whatever colours you choose, they should fit the streetscape. In selecting your palette, you'll find that some of the work has been done for you. Many important colours are already there, and can't be easily changed – the roof, for example. Brickwork, glass, trees, grass and shrubs should also be taken into account.

Break out and try new colours. Have a good look at your property and develop a treatment that helps emphasize its good points. Four or five different colours or shades may be required to do your house justice. A typical palette might include a fairly neutral body colour for large areas of stucco or siding (yes, siding can be painted); a darker shade of the same colour for trim; a brighter accent for features you wish to highlight, such as shutters; and a “punch” colour, usually confined to the most important exterior ele-



**If you don't like the colour of your stucco, paint it. The house body colour in this example is Benjamin Moore's Windham Cream HC-6. The shutters and door are Grenadier Pond CC-650.**

ment – the front door. But not the garage door – it's just too big for a punch colour.

With luck, you'll have lots of warm, dry weather to do the job right. One very important operation is preparation of the surfaces to be painted. Do it right and you won't have to do it again for several years. Get rid of all loose, flaking, cracking or chalky paint; scrub away mildew and give raw wood the solid base of primer it needs. 🍂

■ *These tips were provided to Home Digest by Benjamin Moore & Co. Limited.*