THE ENGLISH HOME

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DREAM HOME WISHLIST
Discover the details we homeowners most desire

Colour success
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• Refresh rooms in sage & mint
• Case studies in blue

Wall style
From tongue & groove to embroidered silk to invisible light switches

Decorating gets clever
Style ideas friends will wish they’d thought of

Spring refreshment
Garden planting and Mother’s Day bakes
COLOUR MASTERCLASS

Cornflower Blues

Blue hues are always popular, yet the cornflower’s bright and vibrant cobalt can often be dismissed as too vivid. However, as these pages show, used confidently it has a dazzling effect, bringing warmth, character and life to living rooms, kitchens and even bedrooms.
“Cornflower Heart is a showstopping cobalt blue,” says Mike Howes, director at Paint by Conran. “It works perfectly as a statement wall, or teamed with fresh whites for contemporary simplicity.” £36 for 2 litres

Fidel is a lovely cobalt from Francesca’s Paints. Owner Francesca Wezel advises: “It needs light and sun, as it can be cold if used in the wrong environment, but it’s blissfully gorgeous when used in the right places.” £58.21 for 2.5 litres

Ian West, founder of Ecos Organic Paints suggests, “Azure works especially well paired with white-painted ceilings, which will visually lift the ceiling and make the rooms appear much taller.” £41.63 for 5 litres of matt paint.

At the paler end of the spectrum, but echoing the delicate petals of a cornflower, “Harebell is a vibrant blue that will give a calming and uplifting feel to any room,” says Peter Sterck, owner of Malabar. £35 for 2.5 litres of emulsion

“A beautiful, deep and inky blue, Button Tin brings a touch of decadence to interior schemes,” says Cathryn Helsby from Earthborn Paints. “Rich and opulent, the creamy matt finish is easy to live with, despite its strong and intense colour level.” She recommends teaming it with bronze or gold accessories for a rich, warm, glamorous look. £32.70 for 2.5 litres of clay paint.

Inspired by the deep ocean blue of the Solent, Needs Ore would work well for revamping a summer house or tired kitchen cabinets,” says director of Konig Colours, Vanessa Galloway. £42 for 2.5 litres of emulsion

Rob Whitaker, creative director at Fired Earth suggests Jazz Café as “vibrant, versatile and instantly uplifting. Try it with this spring’s terracottas to create a sunny Mediterranean palette.” £35.50 for 2.5 litres of matt emulsion

“Blue Moon is a vivid, cheerful hue that would make a confident choice for a room,” says Rebecca Craig, head of design at Sanderson. “Use on small pieces of furniture for a more subtle look.” £38 for 2.5 litres of matt emulsion.