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Autumn colors go bold: Orange, purple and apple green rule this season

The weather may feel cooler this time of year, but rich texture and bright colors (think purple and apple green) are hot this fall. “People like bright colors, no matter what the season,” said Tamara L. Burris, an interior designer from Williamsville.

“Designers have realized people in America enjoy bright colors like you see in Europe.”

Even though bright colors are showing up on everything from paint color chips to fabrics and home accessories, it’s still a natural instinct to gravitate toward the traditional fall colors of brown, gold and green.

This fall, however, those staple colors are being paired with bold hues and warmer tones.

Gray is the hot neutral color this fall, said Rochelle Wilson, window treatment and color consultant for [Don Smith Paint](#). “I’m seeing warmer gray tones paired with yellows and blues. The tan neutrals aren’t as popular.”

The apple green, yellow and purple hues being requested this fall are muted and softer tones that blend with gray, Wilson said. Tuscan colors like olive green, gold and red of past seasons have toned down and been replaced by lighter versions. And hot orange also is popular this fall, on walls and fabric.

The paint color trends for fall are a reflection of what is popular on the fashion runway and home decor, Wilson said. “So when you see Paula Deen’s cookware line in bright orange, it just emphasizes what people are painting their walls.”

Indeed, [Pantone](#), the global authority on color, predicts the season's most important color trends by surveying the designers of New York Fashion Week and beyond. Its picks this fall include bright colors and staple neutrals — cedar (green), deep teal, honeysuckle and gray.

Adding texture also is a trendy way to warm up interior spaces, with fabrics, wallpaper, accessories and table settings. Layering with textures, such as soft flannel, burlap and faux fur is popular, Burris said. She advised clients to add autumnal ambiance through inexpensive, easy ways such as changing out cabinet knobs on a vintage piece of furniture for aged, nature-inspired brass knobs, adding new lampshades in burlap or linen, and bringing in new area rugs and dishes.

Wallpaper is popular in upscale patterns and textures like grass cloth, vinyl that looks like leather and metallic.

And, most importantly, don't decorate according to trends, Burris added. "Use the colors you like. If turquoise is your favorite color, it's never passe."

Top five fall trends

- Gray is the new neutral. Pair it with yellow, purple and orange.
- Texture. Seen in fabrics like burlap and linen, and leather-look vinyl, grass cloth and metallic wallpaper.
- Bright colors
- Personalized spaces
- Nature-inspired accessories. Bright green hedge apples (commonly found along roadsides) in big bowls. Fresh houseplant cuttings in clear vases.