



6 Interior & 6 Exterior Stain Color Trends

plus

New Home Design Ideas to Try in 2026

As we begin the second decade of a brand new millennium, and technology has changed nearly every aspect of our lives, we still have a great pull back toward the traditional. While we live in a world surrounded by technology and new innovations, people find themselves wanting to return to what once was — to nature.

This trend is perhaps most prevalent in real estate and interior design. The increasingly-digital economy has made going into the office for many professions obsolete, thus driving homebuyers to look outside of the city and even into rural territory. COVID-19 spurred this trend further, with people beginning to look for a new home in a less dense community surrounded by the outdoors.

Interior design is following the trend as it swings back towards more natural and rustic living. In response to the quirkiness and abstraction of contemporary design, homebuyers want a home that makes them feel calm and at peace. The best way to achieve this interior design is to lean on one of history's most used building supplies: wood.

From timber-framed homes, log cabins or maybe just some ceiling beams or a paneled wall, the comfort and natural elegance of wood are back. For those homeowners who are now reframing their choice of living into a quasi-rural space with natural elements, such as wood, design can still be creative by utilizing wood stains for both the exterior and interior.

Let's look at the six top interior and exterior color trends for staining:

6 Interior Color Trends

1. Aged Bourbon

“Classy” is a word that is often used to describe stained wood, and Aged Bourbon might be the classiest of them all. Not light, but not too dark, this color works to bring something timeless and grand to any room without a heavy-handed approach.

Just like whiskey barrels impart that wonderful color to whiskey over time, Aged Bourbon can create an allure of aged hominess, even to a brand new space.



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2. Premium Teak

Premium Teak offers a lighter, less pronounced – but still classic – wood look. Just like its origin and historical applications in tropical island nations, the lighter coloring creates an uplifting yet calming mood.



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3. Mocha

Brown is a more complex color than most give it credit for. It comes in a surprising array of variations to ensure the desired look and feel. When adding more brown into the stain color, like Mocha, a richness of color can be achieved that's superior to the wood's natural colors.



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4. Dark Chocolate Truffle

Just like with Mocha, Dark Chocolate Truffle accentuates the level of brown natural to the wood and strengthens it with a heavier tint. This is a great stain color for achieving the power of dark wood to create a moody, traditional space.

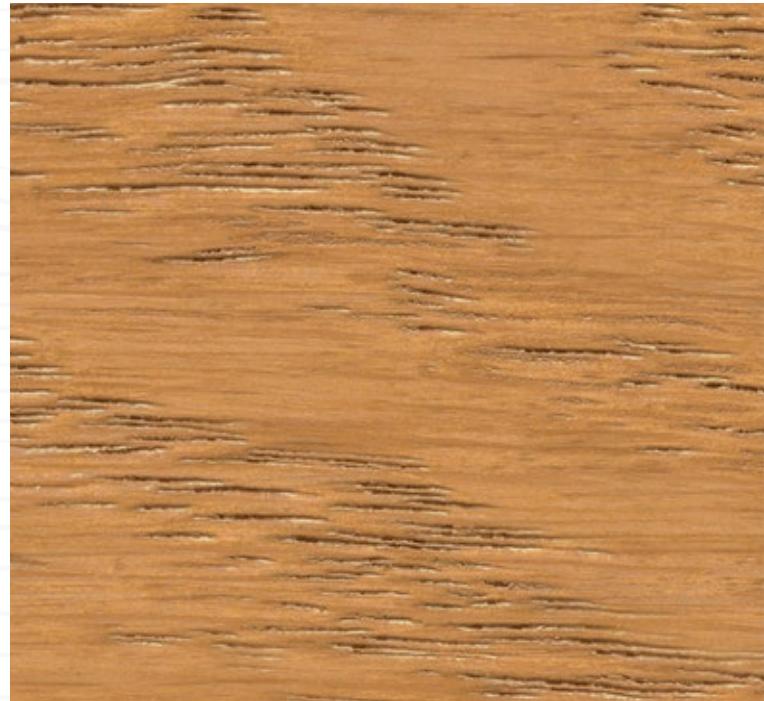


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5. Golden Sunset

Aptly named, Golden Sunset is on the lighter end of the spectrum, and it gives off a bright and cheery stain reminiscent of the open nature of structures overlooking the water.

Golden Sunset is a way for designers to incorporate the charm of wood into the house while also maintaining a light yet uplifting presence.



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6. Baby Grand

Baby Grand, the darkest of the interior stain trends, is clearly on the other end of the spectrum of Golden Sunset — but don't let its darkness scare you. The darker stains also elicit a sense of comfort and perhaps the coziest feel of all wood stains.

Baby Grand invokes strength and power, bringing a level of comfort to any room that will make all feel they're in a safe and warm place. Paired with brightly-painted walls and traditional lighting options, the dark tone of Baby Grand can pull it all together to create an immaculate space.



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6 Exterior Color Trends

1. Sable Canyon

Sable Canyon hearkens back to the glorious southwestern landscapes that artist Georgia O'Keeffe was so fond of. The colors there in the canyons inspired some of her greatest work.

The fascination with those natural colors continues today. They are a wonderful option for bringing a beautiful aesthetic to any deck, presenting a mountain-like vibe to any outdoor space.



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2. High Tea

From the very beginnings of dwelling designs and construction, brewed tea has been used for centuries as a natural stain. High Tea offers that very traditional, minimalistic look and is a great stain for keeping things beautifully simple and sleek.



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3. Cosmos Gray

The color gray has exploded onto the design scene with its modern yet classic appeal. Cosmos Gray, a nod toward the swirling grays of celestial objects in the night sky, offers a tantalizing entry into the world of exterior gray staining.



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4. Gray with Envy

Boosting the newfound power of gray colorings, Gray with Envy injects a subtle green shade into the gray, giving designers even more artistic leeway in designing exterior decking and wood accents.



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5. Signature Chocolate

Very similar to the Mocha and Dark Chocolate interior stain color trends, Signature Chocolate brings that wood feel with added browns to the exterior. It lets the deck stand in a classy yet warm way.



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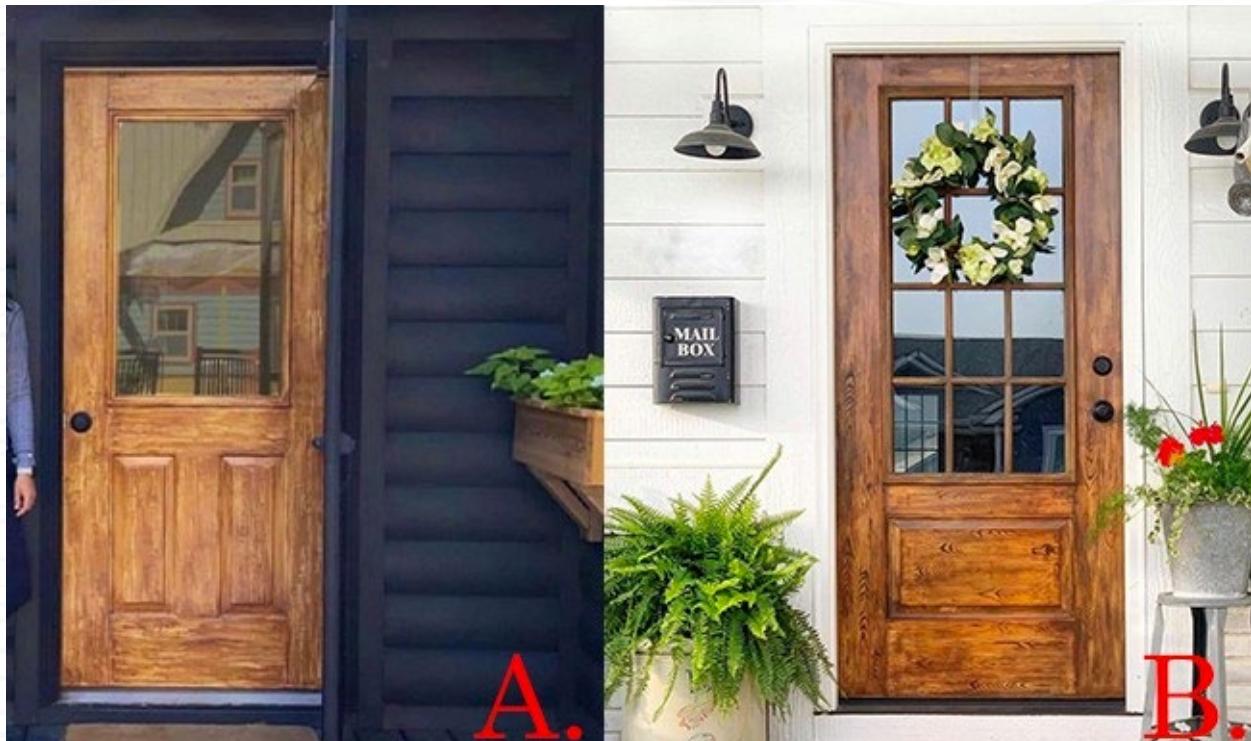
6. Chilean Spice

Often easy to forget, one of brown's most powerful color friends is red. On its own, red coloring is often utilized to create visually-pronounced aesthetics, whether it be a solid red front door or a home's siding. That said, if just a bit of red is introduced — especially into a brown — an elegant but fascinating aesthetic can be achieved.

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Stain Design Ideas to Spark Creativity

Take a Fresh Look at the Front Door



The front door may be one of the most used and critical aspects of any dwelling, but oftentimes, its aesthetic quality is hardly thought of. The critical aspect of the front door is not just obvious when it comes to function — it is also a key factor in curb appeal!

The front door is a unique and important item. It is the portal through which guests enter and residents live. With many houses today utilizing colored siding, a strongly-stained wooden door can impart a magnificence that truly brings the entire exterior aesthetic together.

Make a Statement on the Deck



As previously mentioned, there is a resurgence of exterior siding with engineered materials that are superior to those that have been used in the past. These materials come in a variety of colors, and designers are making use of the wide range of colors to introduce striking exterior aesthetics.

One great use of trending exterior stain colors is to match them with siding colors. In the above example, the siding is full gray, punctuated only by striking white trim from the windows and patio railing. To emphasize the aesthetic, the wood decking has been stained with a matching gray.

The rustic is indeed trendy, and taking a few steps off the beaten path with a colored deck stain — like ZAR®'s Cosmos Gray — can provide the best natural looks and modern aesthetics.

Enliven Wood Paneling with Modern Color Trends



There once was a time when the sight of wood paneling and beams indoors seemed outdated. Without proper care and updated stains, wood can begin to look old and doesn't exude any emotions from its viewers.

Now, the resurgence of wood to bring natural comfort inside is inspiring. As shown in the image above, entire walls might be covered with wooden paneling, wainscoting or chair rails to evoke a feeling of warmth and homeyness – and every time there is wood, it presents a great opportunity to stain. Rooms with wood accents ooze comfort, tranquility, and peace, a feeling which is easily amplified by the right stain color.

Find Your Favorite Color Trend for Exterior and Interior Stains with ZAR®

ZAR® works diligently to create not just the best performing stain products, but also the most on-trend colors, as well. [Contact us today](#) to find the right stain for your project.