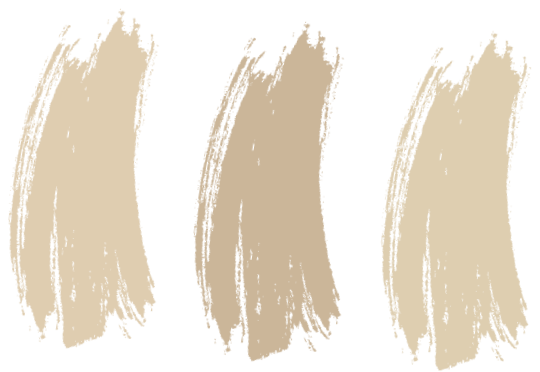




Rich & creamy

Relax with comforting shades of cream, ivory, beige and sand for indulgent rooms

With a soft buttery undertone of yellow 'sand', these hues have a gentle warmth and richness. Cosier neutrals often have names that allude to comforting indulgences – cream, latte, caramel and honey – or tap into wholesome, earthy qualities such as sand, stone or mushroom. Ivory whites provide freshness against a creamy palette and soft tones of deeper browns and muted greens can add depth.

Chunky and soft textures such as chenille, bouclé and suede are well suited to the relaxed yet chic mood this colour palette provides. Cool metals such as nickel and silver can add contrast to balance out the richness of a creamy room, though flashes of gold would work well too. This colour palette can be used for classic townhouses with an elegant flair, yet also has an earthy feel for more rustic properties.

Contemporary indulgence

This bedroom (right) features a perfect harmony of warming neutrals, with dark and light tones in a careful balance. Though muted, the colour scheme is enriched with a range of textures to create a luxurious feel. Kate Earle of Todhunter Earle reveals, "We created the look of this very restful guest bedroom in a London house by combining warm neutrals with a subtle geometric carpet, silk and cashmere cushions, bronze curtain poles and simple curtains with inverted pleats."

The range of textures and subtle patterns brings character to the scheme and any other additions to the room should either impart a subtle hint of colour – whether café au lait, mocha or cream – or add an intriguing texture via textiles and harder surfaces – embossed leathers, sculptural vases and velvety wools will entice and add yet more opulence for a dreamy bedroom. Some pure white on bedlinen or glazed lamp bases adds a fresh note to cut through the richness. Similarly, some darker tones are needed to draw the eye to certain features – such as the striking leading edge on the curtains and pelmet.



Rustic charm

In this kitchen (above), a creamy palette has a much more earthy quality, supported by mushroom tones and an accent of a sage green. A suitable choice to create a light, inviting country kitchen, it is restful and clean. Natural wood finishes or distressed woods maximise the rustic feel. The unrefined texture of the painted stone walls is also a feature here, but a tumbled stone tile would work just as well for a touch of texture and warm honeyed tones.

Simple earthenware and ceramics with a cream glaze are an ideal choice. Prettier touches could be introduced in the form of decorative knobs on the cabinets, a blind at the window or a table cloth in mushroom, beige or sage.

The muted green used for the piece of freestanding cabinetry (far left in the kitchen) does not overpower the neutrality of the room, it supports it, adding a small touch of colour. One or two more accents could be added, but do not go overboard, as then the scheme would become more green than cream. ▶

PAINT SWATCHES OPPOSITE TOP LEFT (FROM LEFT)

- Buff, £49.50 for 2.5l Emulsion, Edward Bulmer Natural Paint
 - Little Rascal, £43 for 2.5l Clay Paint, Earthborn
 - String, £46.50 for 2.5l Estate Emulsion, Farrow & Ball
- ### OPPOSITE, FROM TOP
- Strata Lamp, £426, Arteriors
 - Manhattan Latte extra-long length (270 cm) lambswool throw, £240, The Fine Cotton Company
 - Classic Croc leather photo frame, Fawn, £475, Aerin, Amara
 - Bedroom designed by Todhunter Earle
 - Dustin bedside table, £1,308, Oficina Inglesa
 - Kariss chair, Latte, £199.99, My Furniture
 - White tall geometric vase, £19, Kelly Hoppen

ABOVE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

- Ilana side plate, £40 for a set of four, Anthropologie
- The Real Shaker Kitchen in Mushroom, prices start from £12,000, deVOL
- Ecru tumbled marble mosaic, £8.34 a sheet, Mandarin Stone
- Pride of Place Bread Crock Old Green, £79.99, T&G Woodware
- Oak chopping board with leather loop, £40, National Trust
- Etched flora knob, £1.79 each, Knobbles & Bobbles
- Fabrics (left to right): Up the Garden Path, Mushroom, £54 a metre; Cow parsley, Pigeon/Teal, £52 a metre; Acorn & Leaf, Mushroom, £52 a metre, all Vanessa Arbuthnott
- Oak farmhouse stool, £175, Graham & Green