

Finding yourself in color scheme

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Favorite belongings are often the key to establishing a color theme for a home.

Start with a special chair, piece of art or collectible and build a color theme around the items, suggests interior designer Verna Leask.

It's initially important to work the colors of accessories into the theme, rather than worrying about choosing the paint.

"I would never have anybody start with the paint because the paint is the easiest to change," says Leask.

Carpet, on the other hand, can have a great influence on the color of a room, depending on whether a bold or neutral shade is chosen.

If you don't like the color of the carpet, but can't afford to change it, Leask suggests sticking to neutral accessories.

That way you won't have to replace the accessories when the carpet is changed.

Leask also recommends working plenty of different shades of colors into a home to offer variety.

"You don't want everything to be the same darkness," she says.

She notes a variety of patterns and textures can also create interest.

"Not everything has to match perfectly," says Leask.

"It adds a bit of character."

Choose mainly from either the warm or cool side of the color palette.

It's OK to add a bit of warm accessories to a cool theme, but they should be mainly accessories so the look has continuity, Leask says.

As well, painting all rooms on one level the same color helps maintain harmony.

Create a different look in individual rooms by playing up one color chosen from a particular theme of the accessories.

For example, in a red/yellow/blue theme, the red could be dominate in the kitchen, blue the main focus in the living-room and yellow the accent color for the bedroom.