

Time Out

New York

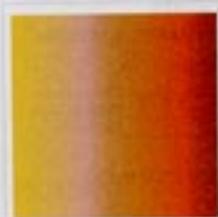
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## Moody hues

How to harmonize your home with a new coat of paint. By **Kate Lowenstein**

"There are color families associated with each of feng shui's elements," explains Judith Wendell, who advises businesses and individuals on the Eastern decorating philosophy ([sacredcurrents.com](http://sacredcurrents.com)). While she says

that it's difficult to give general advice for the proper flow of chi (which is specific to the layout of a space and its inhabitants' qualities), she gave us a rundown of each element and its respective shades.



Earth

"Traditionally, I use these colors, which tend to be calming, in the bedroom," says Wendell. "They're associated with relationships, and while red is too, it isn't restful. So I use yellows, beiges and oranges with red accents if passion is needed in a person's life."



Metal

"This element is all about righteousness and leadership." Wendell advises using these colors sparingly, like in your apartment's entrance or at the end of a long hallway. "Benjamin Moore has some beautiful metallic paints," she says.



Water

"Water is about deep wisdom and one's path in life. While some claim that blue is calming, Wendell says that earth tones are more so, since water is associated with movement. "Black," she says, "can be good for a bedroom, as it's associated with inactivity."



Wood

"Yellowish greens symbolize new life, while deeper shades are about fortunate blessings and money." Regardless, consider it for communal places. "They put green in hospitals because it's linked to health and growth, but they choose bad shades! White, by the way, is not restful."



Fire

"This element is tied to reputation, recognition, high energy and, of course, passion. It's also thought of as a protective color, so if a certain room is in an inauspicious area in the house, then I might suggest using it there."

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