

# green

leaf forest apple lime mint pea olive moss jade  
emerald fresh organic elemental tonic



Green, in its many shades from nature, injects vitality into a space, and is a colour most people feel comfortable to be within. Because green is nearly always present in our everyday lives, we intuitively feel a sense of well-being when we see green - it signifies life and restores energy, and gives one a sense of rejuvenation.

The Egyptians, renowned for copying nature, used green as the preferred colour for flooring in their temples, and the oriental art of Feng Shui uses green to restore energy and encourage growth, signifying balance and harmony. The Greeks centred their belief in immortality with evergreen plants such as ivy and laurel, and within the Christian Church green stood for hope, faith and charity - a reflection of the greenery in the Garden of Eden. In the 18th century the first wide scale use of decorating colours emerged, and pea green and pale olive green were seen with silvery white and pale blossom pink. The Victorian colours of the mid to late 19th century were more vivid and bronze greens; sage green and sea green appeared with red, purple-brown and crimson.

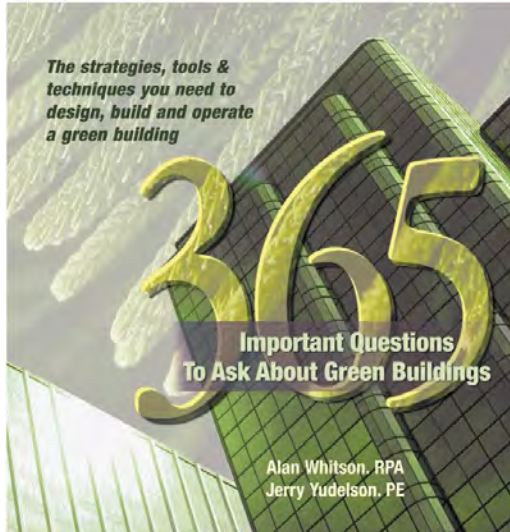
During the second world war “institution green” and deep cream sum up the safe colourway that spread over walls of schools and hospitals. Later we saw brilliant green and eau-de-nil teamed with turquoise blue, golden yellow, signal red and middle brown. The 1930s brought pastel colours in waterborne paint and the predominant green was mint, aligned with primrose, lilac and pale pink.

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the paint the professionals use

Green, made up from the primary colours yellow and blue, strikes a balance between warm and cool, and conveys the communicative aspect of yellow with the peaceful effect of blue. A soft green colour scheme is restful to the eye, giving a sense of relaxed readiness, and green is usually a receding colour rather than an advancing colour unlike its complement, red. The fresh palette of green recalls misty ferns and moss, rain forests, pristine lawns and health-giving vegetables and herbs. The beauty of a natural environment is always evoked by this colour, and fresh green interior schemes work well in bedrooms and bathrooms owing to its sense of renewal and relaxation.



### botanical classic envy wealthy

Graphic designers will apply botanical greens for projects involving ecology and nature - think of the branding of The Body Shop and Greenpeace, whereas the more traditional greens are used to signify “old money” and wealth, as depicted by Harrods in London, or a classic car like a dark green Jaguar. Visualise the old green leather on the spine of law books, or deep buttoned chairs in an exclusive private club - both reek of old money. Similarly, one of the most expensive and treasured jewels is the emerald.

Even just thinking about early childhood memories of green, both happy and less pleasant, we might conjure up thoughts of frogs and dragons, silverbeet and spinach, wobbly lime jelly or the sharpness of peppermint flavoured toothpaste. Fun, imaginative, healthy, bitter, sweet and sharp - all from green.

Other emotional responses to green, depending on the shade, are rebirth and new growth (think of new leaves in spring), envy and jealousy (green with envy), health and wellbeing (spirulina and vegetables), reliable and dependable (banks and lending institutions).

Green is easy on the eye, and was thought to be beneficial for eyesight, so green fabric blinds were a common way of filtering strong sunlight. Surgeons usually work amongst soft green fabric in the operating theatre to reduce eye strain and contrast against the harshness of blood. Watchmakers work on pale green mats for the intricate work they undertake when assembling the smallest of gold and silver metal parts. Similarly green was used as a traditionally contemplative background for a library or study.

There are so many shades of green, from lime to emerald, khaki to jade, avocado to forest green; we will break them down into groups and look more closely at their particular characteristics and applications, and reference them to Resene colours.



### spring green - new life crisp fresh zing clear soft pastel cool

**Spring** greens are pale and delicate, or sharp and citrus. They are bright, life enhancing greens that shimmer as the newly unfurled leaves reach out towards the spring sunlight. Nothing quite equals the bright new green of these welcome signs of life after the winter.

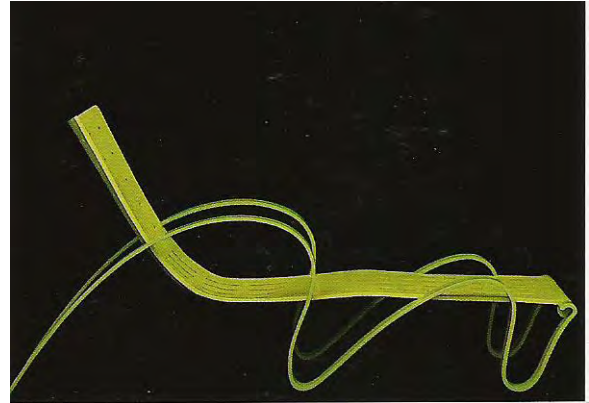
For a crisp colour scheme combine pale apple green walls with sandy floorcoverings, clean white painted woodwork (doors, architraves, etc) and pale pine furniture for a relaxed feel. Bright limey greens work well in a conservatory or sun room as they create a visual link between house and garden, especially when combined with natural materials such as cane, wicker, raffia or sisal.

The brighter lime greens are vigorous colours, which can be used to add a zing to otherwise restrained schemes. They have risen in popularity over the last decade as homeowners feel the need to surround themselves with healthy colours such as many of the new produce greens. The blending of cultures and foods has also seen us exposed to wasabi and sushi shades.

Try a sharp, produce green with earthy reds, russets and hot pinks, or the more yellowed greens with lilac and lavender hues. The brightest spring greens have a fluorescent quality and work well with silver or charcoal. Bluish spring greens work well with terracotta or spiced peach shades.

**Resene Spring Greens - Resene Lima, Resene Citrus, Resene Wellywood, Resene Spritzer, Resene Wild Willow.**





## summer green - grass leaf salad lime cool melon fruit cocktails palm

Summer greens are also bright and zingy, but not as yellow as the spring greens.

Being a time of abundance when the branches of trees are laden with fruit as they sweeten in the warm sun, flowers are flourishing against their green foliage. In New Zealand summer is the time for salads, juicy fruits, long drinks and holidays. Our summer wardrobe is lively with shades of lime and mango, or hot pink and citrus green, with tropical green/blue beach towels, colourful deck chairs and sun umbrellas.

In summer nature provides us with a source of ideas for colour combinations such as leaves and raspberries or strawberries, warm tomato reds and salad greens, watermelon and mint, cucumber and red onions. Reds being the complement of green, they are always an easy combination to work with in interior and exterior design.

Leafy greens can be used in kitchens, co-ordinate them with green accessories, crisp white crockery, light washed timber and stainless steel. Summer greens look cool and refreshing when combined with icy blues and yellows, especially suitable for a warm and sunny north-facing room.

Bright, summer greens give a cheerful flavour to a dark interior and bring equilibrium into a space. Tonic greens “feel” healthy and give a tired space instant rejuvenation.

**Resene Summer Greens - Resene Jackpot, Resene Limeade, Resene Sushi, Resene Sulu, Resene Mantis**

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## winter greens - traditional wealth classic sturdy trustworthy balance

Winter greens are usually darker, evergreen leaf colours. Think of pine trees, holly, winter vegetables, bottle green, beech forests. These are traditional colours and amongst them we find blue-green shades that are rich but cool, intense but not as dominating as the dark greens, which can be overwhelming in an interior scheme. The darker greens are usually used where one wants to create drama, such as in hallways, lobbies and cloakrooms - transit spaces where not a lot of time is spent as they can be overwhelming colours to be within for too long.

Winter greens are also seen in libraries and cosy sitting rooms in more formal styled homes, combined with dark timber panelling and antique furniture. Most often a splash of scarlet or burgundy and gilded mirrors are required to inject warmth into such spaces, which can appear sombre without some relief.

These traditional greens evoke a sense of history and are the “colour of money”, which may be why financial institutions are decorated in bottle green. There is a conservative aspect and it conveys inherited wealth, old values and trust.

Dark greens were also widely used in military uniforms and have been given a slightly masculine tag, often seen in men’s silk ties and packaging their cosmetics.

The inherent mellowness of traditional colours allows them to blend with richness in carpets, textiles and wallcoverings.

**Resene Winter Greens - Resene Racing Green, Resene Nikau, Resene Palm Leaf, Resene Mangrove.**

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### autumn greens - olive khaki avocado wasabi muted timeless faded

Autumn greens feature the harvest season of golden greens, when the leaves begin to turn to reveal brilliant reds, golds and ochres. Olive, khaki and avocado green are autumn greens with a warm, earthy feel. They are muted shades of yellow-green and can be mixed from black and yellow or some blues and yellow.

For a look of “faded elegance” combine olive greens with golds and earthy reds, often seen in upholstery and tapestry patterns. For a more contemporary interpretation of this colour scheme, combine olive with faded neutrals, natural fibre rugs, russet and mustard which gives a “chutney” feel to a room.

The autumn yellow-greens are great crisped up with white and contrasted with navy, or given a funky look teamed up with colours like **Resene Pompadour** or **Resene Cardinal**. For a more sophisticated look use them with a dark chocolate or deep charcoal.

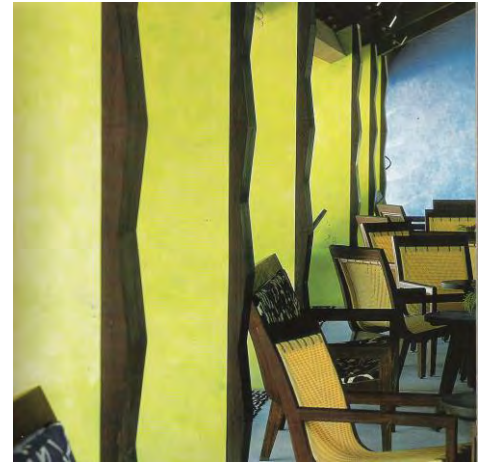
**Resene Autumn Greens - Resene Wasabi, Resene Bahia, Resene Olive Green, Resene Dell.**

Resene EzyPaint is a great way to try out colour schemes - the example to the right is **Resene Fiji Green** with **Resene Raspberry** and **Resene Diesel**.



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### shades of green



### greens to relax and soothe

Relaxing and soothing greens are calm and tranquil, peaceful and balancing. They are often saturated with white or tinged with blue, seldom yellowed.

The soft trickle of water over glass, misty steam with a eucalyptus aroma in a bathroom or spa creates feelings of indulgence and relaxation.

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The softest shade of lichen creates a restful haven away from the urban pace of life, ideal for a bedroom or nursery. These shades have been used with greyed whites and soft creams to slow down the heartbeat and help one drift off into a deep and restful sleep.

Relaxing greens from the Resene range - Resene Caper, Resene Green Smoke, Resene Ying Yang, Resene Pine Glade, Resene Chill Out, Resene Spring Rain, Resene Mantle.



greens to energise



vitamins nourishment vitality regenerating energising

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sophisticated greens - slick glossy classy translucent expensive



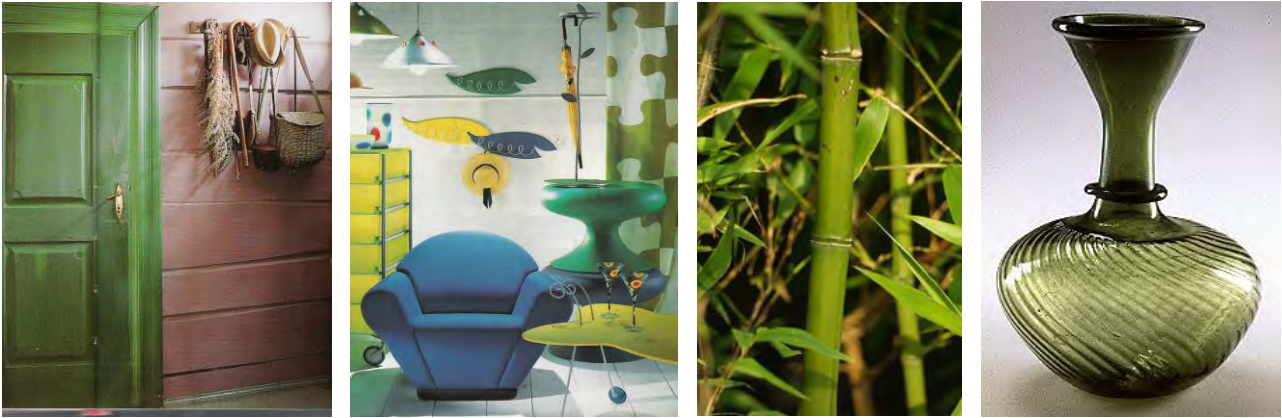
Works with lots of glass, chrome, black granite, white and grey.

Sophisticated Resene greens: Resene Malachite Green, Resene Viridian Green, Resene Windblown Green, Resene Jigsaw, Resene Anemone Green.

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### retro greens

Retro greens were generally seen with brown and orange, as in the 1960's. They have reappeared recently with the acknowledgment of this era in fashion and interior design, but are more likely to be teamed with black, grey and white as neutrals, or hot pinks and violets to accent and update them. Another popular combination with these greens is aubergine or salmon, as in the green door picture teamed with a pinky aubergine. Think of tinned peas, asparagus, or bamboo.

**Resene Retro Greens: Resene Trendy Green, Resene Palm Green, Resene Waiouru, Resene Grass Hopper.**



### futuristic greens

Futuristic greens - we seem to be moving a little away from the produce greens and into some rather ambiguous shades, quite greyed and blued at times. These are appearing with neutrals -

- Check out **Resene Frontier + Resene Rockbottom**
- Accented with charcoal such as **Resene Jigsaw + Resene Gravel**
- or **Resene Calm Green + Resene Misty Lavender**

These shades are emerging in fashion, similar to the various strengths of **Resene Lemon Grass** or eau-de-nil with just a hint of green.

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Metallic, transferable, ambiguous, chameleon, - these are the green pigments being used in the latest motor vehicles as seen at the Geneva Car Show recently.

The Fiat Panda was featured in a metallic safari green, more tinged with blue than the yellow, with definite silver undertones.

The Kia Picanto was shown in ivy green, a bright and energised summer green toned down with silver metallic pigments.

The Saab Aero was seen in a cool, minted silver called glacier green, almost ice-like as depicted by the name glacier.

The Citroen C2 was the most yellowed green, a metallic citrine colour like wasabi and titanium mixed together.

The Ford Focus Ghia was in an older traditional green swept up with silver-blue undertones, called honor green.

The Rover MG was featured in a blued-green metallic shade.

As fashion and motor vehicles often precede the colours we see on and within our buildings, it is important to acknowledge what is happening in these arenas, as well as the technology we have in newly developed pigments and materials.



green - tropical palms fish frogs birds bush butterflies

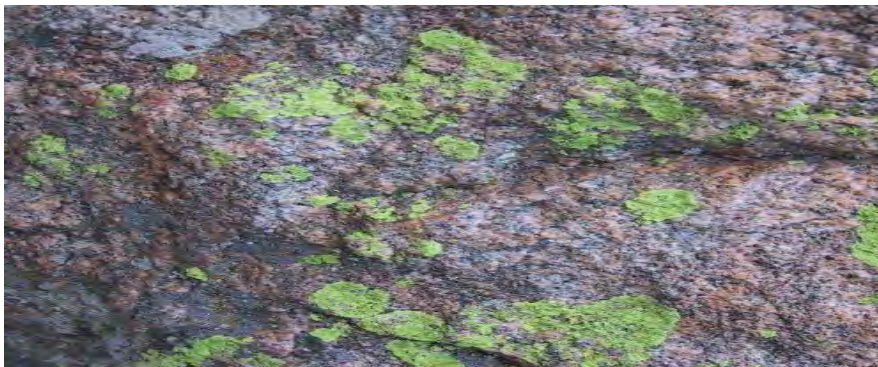
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green - kermit pistachio moss



green to go walking - try it barefoot on cool grass...



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**Resene Spring Greens - Resene Lima, Resene Citrus, Resene Wellywood, Resene Spritzer, Resene Wild Willow.**

*Exercise - using the Violet Palette from the Resene Multi-Finish Chart select three colours to work with each of the above Resene greens.*



**Resene Summer Greens - Resene Jackpot, Resene Limeade, Resene Sushi, Resene Sulu, Resene Mantis**

*Exercise - using the Bright Red Palette from the Resene Multi-Finish Chart select three colours to complement each one of the above Resene shades of green.*



**Resene Winter Greens - Resene Racing Green, Resene Nikau, Resene Palm Leaf, Resene Mangrove.**

*Exercise - from memory select a Resene green for winter foods broccoli, leeks, silverbeet, broad beans, celery, kiwifruit and gooseberries.*



**Resene Autumn Greens - Resene Wasabi, Resene Bahia, Resene Olive Green, Resene Dell.**

*Exercise - using Resene EzyPaint create colour schemes with the above greens that are not in autumn tones - no ochres or oxides. Try and achieve a more up to date look using strong accents, ones with a sub-tropical twist for a change.*

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