

out of the blue

From moody azures to delicate duck-egg and vivid sapphire, sea blues are the perfect colours for summer.



Calm, relaxing, refreshing, cooling – as the colour of the sky and sea, blue stands for peace and tranquility. Blue also stands for loyalty and tradition – it's one of the most popular colours for uniforms and a personnel professional might advise you to wear it for job interviews because of its association with trustworthiness.

Aside from its ingrained association with male gender in Western societies, blue (not red) traditionally stands for love, which is why a bride carries or wears 'something blue'.

As a water colour, blue is often associated with hygiene and is a favourite packaging colour for cleansers and personal hygiene products.

Did you know people are more productive in blue rooms, and that blue is an appetite suppressant? Because it doesn't occur naturally in food, we have a primitive response that blue food is poisonous. So use it in the home office but not the dining room... unless you're on a diet.

Blue is known as a cool colour, and in decorating its tranquil nature has made it popular for bedrooms. It has an unfair reputation as being cold and depressing. Certainly, if you choose a grey-based or icy blue for a south-facing room, it might not make you feel cheerful. But with today's paint technology and colour subtlety, blue can easily become a warm turquoise or a deep and reassuring navy. It can have the richness of cobalt and lapis tones, or the sophistication of teals and dusky slate shades.

Any colour, of course, changes depending on its environment and what you place it next to. Put pale blue next to white and it will become classically Cape Cod, refreshing and beachy. Put navy with gold and it becomes regal. Turquoise with yellow, it's fun and funky.

So take some inspiration from these pages, and go blue. [H](#) >

- Resene Maestro
- Resene Zomp

Left Background: Resene Maestro. White chair, \$799, Zebra cushion, \$219, Indian book, \$229, and Root stool, \$129, from Republic Home. Droplet lamp from May Time Marketing. Pearl shell box, \$27.50, and resin Kudu horn, \$210, from Corso de Fiore. Table, optical glasses and brass vase, stylist's own.

Right Resene testpots, clockwise from top: Resene Wavelength, Resene Zomp, Resene Comfort Zone, Resene Maestro, Resene Quarter Tasman.

Above right Background: Resene Zomp. Marcia Scott stool, \$379, Sweet Pea owl, small \$75, and Little Scruff, Pluto Blue, \$36, from Eon Design. Wood & Scherer cushion \$98, Wood & Scherer 'Birdsong' trolley, \$179, and pink letter 'A', \$79, from Madder & Rouge. Alimrose Design giraffe, \$24.95, from Abigails. Beba Bean 'My First Patents' shoes, \$52.50, from Verde.

See overleaf for stockist details.

"The soothing shades of blue are renowned for their relaxing properties."





“You can almost hear the waves caressing the shore.”

Above Background: Resene Wavelength. Elk antler lamp, from May Time Marketing. Glass bottle, \$269, wooden vase, \$89, white Hurricane lantern, \$99, offering dish, \$299, and coral, \$100, from Republic Home. Small glass buoy \$92, from Corso de Fiore. Blue bowl, stylist's own.

Above right Background: Resene Comfort Zone. Natural side table, \$105, from Corso de Fiore. Belgian oval street lantern from May Time Marketing. Botanic plaque, \$70, from Abigails. Cotton throw, \$150, from Verde. Blue bowl and white bowl with pegs, stylist's own.

Right Background: Resene Quarter Tasman. Assorted Adobe crockery in Stone, Charcoal, Powder Blue and White from Nood.

- Resene Comfort Zone
- Resene Quarter Tasman
- Resene Wavelength

Stockists Abigails 09 445 3072; Corso de Fiore, www.corsointeriors.co.nz, 09 307 9166; Eon Design, www.eon.co.nz, 09 368 4860; Madder & Rouge, www.madderandrouge.co.nz, 09 522 1062; May Time Marketing, www.maytime.co.nz, 09 526 4274; Nood, 09 357 3519; Republic Home, 09 361 1137; Verde, 09 521 1165.

