

grey

warm cold
advancing receding
sophisticated utilitarian

black + white = neutral grey

All the greys in between black and white are neutral, quite timeless, and suit any interior or exterior building style. Grey is used to soften the contrast between black and white, and it also quietens strong colours in a space with a gentle neutralising effect.

Referring back to the Resene Multi-Finish Colour Chart Grey Palette, **Resene Shark**, **Resene Tuna**, **Resene Shuttle Grey**, **Resene Grey Chateau** and **Resene Iron** are all neutral greys, that is. they are not tinted with red or blue or any other colour.

Looking in the Resene The Range greys are infused with other colours. When you use the grey vinyl isolator you will note that most greys in The Range collections are slightly coloured that gives them their own characteristics.

A black/white/grey scheme is timeless and stylish, especially when you play with different textures like smooth and rough, matt and gloss. Nature does this well, look at granite and natural stones for example.



grey - professional, sophisticated

The classic professional attire is the grey flannel suit, so and grey is generally central to professional colour schemes. It is a serious, no-nonsense neutral that communicates both professionalism and dependability.

Resene

the paint the professionals use

It was used in graphic design in the early 1900's, an achromatic palette (no colour) allows any other colour to take on additional vibrancy. Fine-art galleries are often painted in achromatic schemes so the art becomes the focal point within the space, and nothing else competes with it.

The same principle can be applied in interior design where a piece of furniture, an antique or art, is to take the limelight within the space. Or where the actual architecture or garden is the main feature in an exterior scheme.

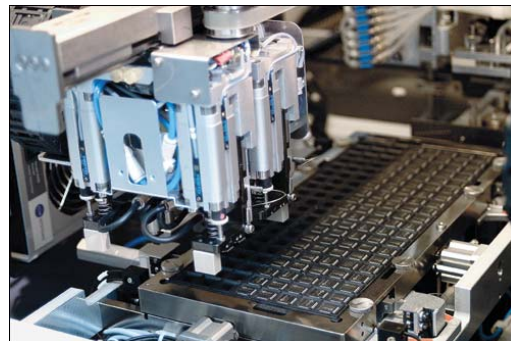


grey - industrial, utilitarian

There is an industrial aspect to grey - concrete, steel, iron - and this may conjure up a technical atmosphere. This can feel cold and austere so needs to be taken into consideration.

The over-use of grey in work environments has associations with dull, suffocating offices and factories. In the 1970's and early 1980's many timber office desks were replaced with grey laminate ones, and added to this was grey carpet, grey screens and charcoal or black chairs. Gentle greys can be considered calming, but too much grey can be dull and boring.

In this office example, the walls have been painted a pale pinky-peach that was also a colour scheme very popular in the 1980's. The wall colour warms the space and was also deemed to be nurturing and calming for those working within the space.





grey - practical, durable

Some people may have memories of grey as part of their school uniform, always considered practical because it didn't show dirty marks! Armed forces wore grey uniforms, as did factory workers and labourers, for the same reason - practical and durable.

For this reason some folk may have an aversity to grey, and consider it boring and utilitarian. But as we know there are so many shades of grey....

From dark cold slate-grey to the pale warmth of pearl-grey, grey makes a good background for brighter colours and combines subtly with natural tones.

And yes, grey is quite practical when used for flooring and high-use furniture upholstery. But it doesn't need to be boring. And like it or not, grey is predicted to rise in popularity as the new neutral, nudging aside the yellow-based neutrals. In particular, cool neutrals such as those infused with blue and green, are expected to emerge in 2005. Examples from the Karen Walker Range are **Resene Windblown Green** and **Resene Periglacial Blue**. And a hard-edged grey from The Range 2005 is **Resene Condor**.



grey - practical, durable

Grey is not always cold, and in fact can be quite warm and cosy. Think of a little grey kitten or rabbit - indeed quite cuddly and soft, or a pale-grey mohair sweater for example.

In colour design, the warmer greys are usually infused with red or violet to give a sense of warmth. Good examples of these warm greys from the The Range 2005 are **Resene Rakaia** and **Resene White Metal**, which have hints of violet, and **Resene Diesel**, which is the darkest black-charcoal with red undertones.

Another warmish, soft grey is **Resene Concrete** from The Range Whites & Neutrals - look at how it retains its warmth when the strength of colour is doubled or trebled. Examples from the Resene Multi-finish Grey Palette are **Resene Comet**, **Resene Santas Grey** and **Resene Shady Lady**.



Warm greys would work well in rooms on the south side of a building, in bathrooms and work spaces.



grey - depth and definition

Artists working in charcoal were able to show depth and dimension by using different strengths of grey. This can also be achieved in architecture and interior design very effectively, using different shades of grey to highlight particular features of a building or areas within a space.

In the first few weeks of a human's life we can only see black and white, not colour. And many animals do not see hues of colour, while on the other hand some fish and birds see more colours than humans do. Incidentally, it is understood that human eye can distinguish over 10 million different colours!



light grey walls - clean and crisp



Greypower - elegantly aged

Nature always does it perfectly.

As we grow older our hair greys, which is more flattering to a mature skin.

As timber ages, it also greys to a mellow and natural patina as seen on this old barn

Some greys just look dignified...



Grey - clean, slick

A lot of stainless steel has been seen in kitchens of late. Also charcoal coloured benchtops and glass insert splashbacks.

This kitchen has a slightly commercial feel with its grey horizontal and streamline designs.



One of the Resene grey colours that portrays the strength of sheer steel is **Resene Jimmy Dean** even though it is slightly warm, and the other is **Resene Gravel**, both from The Range 2005.

These shades would work well to visually 'strengthen' architectural elements such as columns or balustrades.



hygienic, surgical

Grey is seen in commercial kitchens, hospitals and surgeries - where hygiene is paramount and decoration is perhaps secondary. It is also used widely in food processing factories and laboratories where neutral and practical colours are required.



cool grey - infused with blue



**grey -
highway,
paving,
grounding**

Resene

the paint the professionals use



We see a lot of grey in our every day lifestyle - roads and footpaths, paving stones, and so on. Grey can be used to 'ground' a room, such as a dark grey floor rug under a dining setting, or the painted grey basement of a building.

As well as being practical colourwise, grey carpets and flooring feel quite balanced because we are used to the colour grey underfoot.

**grey -
two-toned effect**



grey - sophisticated and high-tech

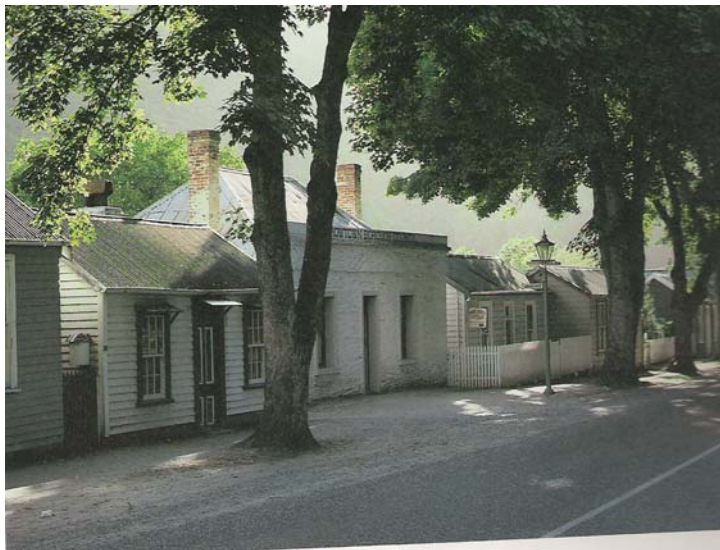
Since we entered the new millennium, there has been an increase in the use of light silver in audio and visual equipment, cameras, office accessories, mobile telephones, computers and so on. Remember when all these objects were beige!

Resene

the paint the professionals use



exterior grey schemes



grey - mystical and magical

Like the sky and the sea, grey can be described as mysterious and elusive. The myriad of moods conveyed by grey are endless. The gentle grey of a calm sea, cloudy skies, motionless mist - all give us a comfortable feeling of wellbeing.

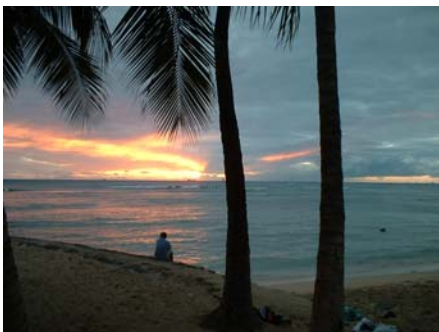
Resene Flotsam and Resene Rakaia are good examples of misty greys.



concrete grey, aged stone



automotive metallic greys



grey skies are not always dreary

Too many days of grey skies can affect the mood however...

Resene

the paint the professionals use



fishy grey - slippery, shiny, sleek

There is probably nothing more beautiful than a dolphin swimming through the waves, sleek, shimmering and elegant. Those adjectives can also be used to describe grey as a decorating colour. Whether it be fashion or interior design, shimmering lights and graceful movement can be achieved using a combination of greys. Think of metallic paints, translucent textiles, glass and gloss.

Resene Quarter Tapa and **Resene Delta** are sophisticated and understated greys for applications where a sleek look is required.

Resene

the paint the professionals use



grey with colour or not?

Whites, greys and blacks

Whites, greys, blacks – this is where the story of neutrals begins. The colours we broadly think of as neutrals – all those soft subtle shades without which decorating the home would be impossible – are colours that are usually made by adding white to basic pigments. These neutral shades should not be dismissed out of hand. Neither dull nor boring, they are in fact the most sophisticated colours around. Many of us start our lives in colour using shades that get quickly to the point – the sort of colours that need no introduction. But, as we learn more about colour, we begin to appreciate the subtlety of so-called neutrals – their air of quiet calm and confidence. They are not primaries, nor secondaries, nor even complementary – they are nuances of colour.

Resene

the paint the professionals use