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## **Bold jewel tone dominates interior color palette**

It started with house plants, worked its way onto throw pillows, and has now overtaken furniture and wall color. Emerald green is a hot new trend in interior design, but just how did such a bold color find its place in everyday decor?

While emerald was named the Pantone Color of the Year in 2013, color trends generally take awhile to show up in home decor, says *Curbed.com*. It often begins with small accent pieces as homeowners test out a new color. Over time, people become accustomed to seeing it in their home, and the color begins to appear in larger design elements.

The increased emphasis on health and wellness in recent years has contributed to emerald's rise in popularity. Bringing this jewel tone into a living space can imitate the peacefulness and relaxation of being outdoors. Our minds also associate emerald with foods such as green smoothies and leafy vegetables, creating an aura of health around the color.

Try pairing emerald with other popular hues like copper, rose gold, and soft pinks or peaches. You can begin with a houseplant or take the plunge and paint an entire room.

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#### How to be a good neighbor during a remodel

While you're eagerly anticipating your home renovations, keep in mind that your neighbors may not be thrilled by the noise, dust and equipment that come with the process. Good communication and thoughtful gestures can help you maintain healthy relationships throughout your project.

Before signing any contracts, vet your construction crew. Hiring professional, respectful contractors is the first step in being considerate of your neighbors. Ask your crew to stick to standard working hours and to clean up any stray trash and debris.

Give your neighbors plenty of notice before construction begins. It's often best to start this conversation in person and follow up with an email outlining key details such as anticipated start and end dates, equipment that may interfere with parking and any particularly disruptive parts of the project.

If your neighbors have concerns, listen carefully and try to empathize. Reassure them that you'll do your best to eliminate frustrations, and make sure they have a way to reach you in case any issues come up. Showing that you

care goes a long way toward alleviating tension.

Do whatever else you can to be considerate of specific needs. If a neighbor will be directly affected by dust from your remodel, consider offering to pay for a window cleaning service. If they work from home, purchase a few day-passes to a coworking space to allow them to get out of the house. If construction vehicles or a dumpster will take up street parking, park your car farther away to make space for your neighbors and their guests.

When your renovation is complete, thank your neighbors for their patience. Consider giving them a thoughtful gift or inviting them over for a housewarming party.

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### Top tips for buying furniture

When it's time to update your furniture, follow these simple tips and you won't be disappointed.

- Comfort is key. In addition to finding the right style, make sure your furniture selections are comfortable and functional for all the members of your household. Try to find pieces made with high-quality materials to ensure a longer lifespan.
- When considering the size of your new furniture, don't stop with measuring its future place in your home. Remember to also measure all the doors, hallways and corners you'll need to maneuver through and around to get it into place.
- Think about having a variety of shapes. Alison Davin, an interior designer from San Francisco, recommends finding a balance in each room by counting all the shapes you find and ensuring there isn't a surplus of just one kind.
- Most importantly, find furniture you love. Even if it doesn't fit in the room you originally intended, it may be
  worth rearranging another room in order to fill your home with quality, comfortable furniture that brings you
  joy.

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## **Proper care helps leather last**

If you want to ensure your investment in leather furniture stands the test of time, it's important to maintain the material by following basic care guidelines. This is one instance where it's best to avoid DIY concoctions. Make sure you only use distilled water and leather-specific cleaning products or you risk voiding your furniture's warranty. Watch out for products that will cause your leather to dry out.

To avoid severe staining, remove spills immediately with a white microfiber cloth. Keep your leather furniture away from direct sunlight and other heat sources to avoid cracking. Conditioning your leather furniture once or twice a year will help maintain its natural oils and keep the leather soft.

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#### **Sheet Pan Cashew Chicken**

#### **Ingredients**

1½ lbs. chicken breasts
1 (12-oz.) pkg. fresh broccoli florets
2 red bell peppers, diced
½ cup whole cashews
½ cup teriyaki sauce
3 cups cooked rice

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 400° F. Line a sheet pan with foil and apply cooking spray.

Cut chicken into  $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch cubes. Combine chicken, broccoli, peppers, and cashews in a large bowl. Add teriyaki sauce and toss to coat evenly.

Spread onto prepared pan and bake for 15 minutes, stirring once halfway through. Serve



over rice.

Serves 4-6

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