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# Colour TRENDING

*FIND OUT WHY BLUE AND BRASS ARE THE MUST-HAVE ADDITIONS TO YOUR HOME THIS SEASON.*

BY KRIS BRIGDEN

Do you remember the living rooms of old with brass lamps flanking a powder blue sofa? The scene was perfectly placed in front of a picture window so heavily draped with white sheers; any street life was blocked from view. Thank goodness those days have passed – or have they?

Metals are so hot and trendy right now – and they're not going anywhere. (Should I also mention that blue is back too?) Luckily, the new brass is better, sleeker, edgier and warmer than the brass of decades ago.

When it comes to blue, the shades are bolder than past powder trends, and you won't just see it on the sofa. Blue is everywhere from furniture and accessories to hardware and bathroom fixtures.

Like most trends, it can be difficult to temper what quantity and pairings are appropriate. Mix too much, and you're singing the blues. Do too little, and you make no impact. Your first step is to do some research. Get your inspiration from the runways, fashion magazines, or even the water in your pool. It matters not where you get your encouragement, just that you embrace it.

Once armed with courage, follow these five steps to ensure you mix your blues and metals like a pro:

**1** | Decide how far you are willing to take the trend. Is it just for throw pillows to mix with your existing décor, or do you want to start again with walls and begin to layer?

**2** | Add in these new trends on a manageable budget and scale. Unless you want to live with an aqua sofa for the next 10 years, choose wisely. If you're into trends, you know next year can be a whole different colour game. Decide what is worth the splurge and space, in advance of: "OMG I have to have it!"

**3** | Designers often use light fixtures to make an impact or to convey a design message. Whether it's a warm brass barrel ceiling mount in a foyer, a golden rose chandelier over a dining table, or a gunmetal vanity light, lighting makes a huge impact (and it's only an hour for an electrician to install).

**4** | Most people are drawn to blue because it's so dominant in nature. Try to be crisp with your hue choices for modern appeal.

**5** | Texture and pattern are risky, but carry a huge design reward. Don't be too safe when you select fabrics, cushions or even wall coverings. **VM**



**TOP:** MOROCCAN TILE PATTERNS AND TRADITIONAL MOTIFS TURN THESE RUGS INTO WORKS OF ART. EACH IS HAND TUFTED OF PURE WOOL AND DYED FOR A VIBRANT, LASTING COLOUR. THE LUSTER WASHING MAKES FOR A MELLOW COLOUR AND SILKY FEEL. (POTTERY BARN, \$539 TO \$1,679)  
**BOTTOM:** THESE POTTERY BARN GOLDEN BRASS ACCESSORIES ARE AN AFFORDABLE TREND THAT YOU CAN HAVE FUN WITH. MIX UP THE TONES AND FINISHES; THEN DISPLAY ACCESSORIES IN ODD NUMBERED GROUPINGS FOR MAXIMUM IMPACT.