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## STYLE MANTRA

# Home décor for a HOLI-DAY!

Heads of paints companies and design firms share with **Vijay Pandya** their recipe for creating a festive ambience with colours

**Jayakumar Krishnaswamy**  
Managing Director, Akzo Nobel India

Celebrating the festival of colours, Holi, is a time of the Indian culture that transcends all social barriers. The festival fills the air with positivity and restrains as people rejoice smearing each other with their favourite colours.

The festive spirit of Holi brings future but leaves numerous color marks and stains on walls. Holi colours definitely don't make it for the best home décor.

Since, greeting your walls through this beautiful spring festival isn't really an option, listed below are a few tips that come handy pre and post the festival to ensure that you continue to have the best wall colours intact.

One of the biggest horrors at the time of Holi is staining of walls with colours and hand prints on the walls of the house. I recommend opting for stain-resistant paints that have various features like washability.

Around the festive, the exterior of the house suffer gravely as excessive water is being used on the walls, which in turn could lead to permanent damage. A coating of crack proof emulsion shields houses against damage and keeps the exterior of home in immaculate condition.

Synthetic colours generally leave tough stains on the walls, however, one should avoid rubbing the walls too hard, instead resort to light dabbing with soft cotton cloths in order to avoid damage to wall colour.

While kids running mad in and out of home after playing Holi, special attention needs to be paid to protect the stems of wooden frames and furniture. An undercoat of water-based enamel varnish is perfect for windows and doors.

It is strongly advised to use water-based colours for Holi as just to protect the walls of one's house but even otherwise it is recommended to go for organic colours and stay away from the harmful effects of the synthetic ones.

This year as you protect your skin before you drench yourself in this beautiful festival, invest sometime to prepare your walls. Then don't fret, because your wall colours are safe this Holi.



**Roopesh Gupta**  
CEO, P5 Architectural Solutions

A Spring beckons to close the festival of Holi. The festival of colours that covers the whole nation in a blanket of vibrancy, zest and life! Holi brings colours and liveliness to our shades and to our lives. The festive is round the corner and you would like to prepare your home to see the right mood for this auspicious colourful festival of India.



Outdoor is the way: As Holi is usually celebrated as an extension to the outdoor, parks and terraces are important spaces for embellishment. Hence, gearing up these outdoor spaces to make them ready for playing Holi is extremely vital. Bright coloured flowers are predominantly the best way to decor outdoor spaces, colorful paper bunting and festoons can also be a major part of the decorations. Add in a flower rangoli to decorate the patio to invite in the delightfulness of the festival. Prep the living room. To match the spirit and the bonhomie of the Holi celebration, giving the living room a bright new makeover

with the help of colourful wall hangings, brightly lit up upholstery, floral wall motifs, vivid rugs and bouquets of fresh flowers. We contribute to the vibrancy and liveliness to the living room with flower pots decorated in colourful crystal bowls and placed attractively on center or side tables to bring in the desired festive effect. Enhance the ambience by adding in aromatic candles which add an elegance to the home décor.

Furniture: In keeping with the festives, accessories and trinkets draped through the house, a hobby instructor can only add to the vibrancy of the festival around. While Holi is an outdoor festival, the interiors also have to be decorated in this festival's end. It's suggested to leave the heavy furniture pieces as they are, but we can simply make some bright and vibrant changes to smaller furniture pieces like:  
● Changing the colour of cushion covers from the monochromy of greens and pinks to a lively red or yellow as an ode to the festival.  
● Covering couch sets, sofas and chairs with new and colourful loose covers that would protect them as well.  
● Bright rugs do a lot to liven up the atmosphere of a room. Pick one which has colours complementary to your home décor, and accessorize with accents like matching lamps to tie the look together.  
Decorating the house during Holi is a must, however keeping in mind the nature of the festival the important thing to be looked into is the convenience of cleaning the house. You can re-arrange the larger furniture pieces alongside the walls so that they would not get stained with coloured hands or feet.  
Wooden artifacts can be cleaned with a soft cloth and look beautiful as a part of the decorations. Covering your walls with colorful curtains or hangings makes it look extremely beautiful along with serving your walls from Holi colours.  
We all know that Holi is a day festival, however we can play around with lights too to bring in a special effect of the festival. Getting illuminated lights which can be hung all around the house, as an extension to the festival. When your whole abode will get illuminated with the colorful radiance, the ambience will be soaked up in the true spirit of the festival.

**Surender Bhatia**  
Whole-Home Director, COO & CFO, Shalini Paints

Choosing an appropriate colour for a space is very important, aspect of any home painting decision. Colour can actually make



or break a space because colour has a very significant effect on the space as well as the people living in it. Colour affects our mood too, when we replace white wall with a bright red paint, the feeling is hot and sexy. Blue and green paints calm the mood. Shiny hues bring in warmth

even on a gloomy grapes day. This colour should be used wisely by color's advantage leading to productivity and enhanced productivity. In fact, a coat of paint is the quickest way to change the look of a room, camouflage design problems, provide a protective coating to the walls and enhance even the exteriors.

Over the years, the usage of color for any residential project has evolved dramatically. Fashion designs using high-tech patterns along with traditional motifs are leading to interesting patterns. A lot of layering effect is being infused in order to bring in richness without overloading the consumers with too many colors.

Plain and simple walls are giving way to dual or even triple colour walls. Neutral shades are being replaced by bold and vibrant shades. Earthy colours like light brown, tan, brown or brick red are preferred for the exteriors as they help offset deposition of dirt. For interiors people

go for from light colours to bright shades since they create an effect of space. With the digitalization of the world, even the Indian consumer is becoming more informed and vocalized in their taste. With increasing awareness, the consumers are now more concerned with health and wellness issues and are very assertive in preferring safe and green products. In line with the trend, eco-friendly and water-based decorative products are available. Many of these products have anti-dust and anti-allergenic properties. Water-based products that have low VOC makes them successfully and a safer bet.

You can opt for a premium line-art combination with superior stain resistance. The advanced stain guard technology in such products delivers excellent protection against all common household stains. So now you all can enjoy Holi with great enthusiasm without worrying about the stains.

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all so often know... just bring together home-decor accessories of different colours while placing them against a light background. Exciting, isn't it? Metallic. We certainly enjoy painting faces with metallic colour, why not our walls? Don't worry, it is not as daunting as you think. Metallic can also be portrayed in a subtle light. Designers can recommend 2 to 3 ways of dealing with this new glamour - white walls accented with gold or silver decorative, or a small area with equivalent proportions of maroon and brass in the room. Add some sheen and shine to your home, designers. And let's not forget that it's one of the major home-decor trends of 2016!

Black and White: Giving our readers a break from a dose of the rather common colours, black and white still makes any room of the home look classy and timeless. Anything done



**Priyanka Padode**  
Founder, DesignGenie

It feels like yesterday that we had our first covered balconies. It's time to get ready and welcome all the painted faces to your home and greet them with the Holi special Gulgulis, Puran Puddis and Thandai. But, is your home ready to invite them all? Here are the colour trends in colour for you to bring home this season.

Colour blocking: Why not make a bold style statement in the true spirit of the festival? This Holi, peek two outdoors and spruce your walls with paint! Do it yourself (DIY) and let the kids get to work with what's coming next - you don't need a painter, just a combination of two or even better, three colours on your walls and you're set for the most stylish trend of the season! We also have something for the ones not feeling



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with this combination, may it be white doors with a few pieces of black furniture, white walls with black frames, black and white cushions on a grey sofa and the list goes on, will only make your room look more chic than ever. Serpents: Now time to have some fun.

Have a spare wall, which could give your room a transforming character? Use colour blocking or maroon and tones or white and black, as stripes on your wall.  
Have you ever dreamed with colour in your home before? Do so this Holi!

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