



WALL DECALS ARE VERY EYE-CATCHY, THE CARE MUST BE TAKEN WHILE CHOOSING THEIR DESIGN PATTERNS AND MOTIFS



THE COLOUR PALLET SPECIALLY ASSORTED FOR DIWALI FESTIVAL WILL HELP ONE IN CHOOSING THE RIGHT SHADE

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▲ PAINTING THE WALLS OF A PUJA ROOM WITH TEXTURED DESIGN PATTERN IS A GOOD IDEA AS THIS ROOM, WITH AN OIL LAMP LIT, LOOKS FESTIVE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

▲ AN EASY WAY TO HIGHLIGHT A WALL IS BY AFFIXING WALL-DECALS, ESPECIALLY FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON. WALL DECALS WITH RANGOLI PATTERN DESIGNS ARE PREFERRED

WALLDECOR

When walls get festive and arty

One of the major activities in preparation for Diwali festival is painting the walls. When done differently, painted walls could add a style quotient to one's home

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The festival of lights is round the corner and it's time to indulge in some painting pleasures. Newly painted walls give a house the most needed face-lift. This make-over attempt when done with some artistry will enhance the look of the whole house. Selecting a single colour or a combination of a few is the most commonly followed trend, however if one is interested, painting walls could provide innumerable opportunities to creatively decorate them. It is recommended that before painting the walls one must choose a theme based on which all the walls can be painted.

One of the best ways to make walls look regal is by texture-painting them. Texture paintings add a tone of class and artistic flair to the walls. There are many themes and patterns to choose from. A stone finish, crinkled design effect, roller texture designs, so on and so

forth. Specifically for the festive season one could go for designs that will enhance the other décor elements of the house. Also painting the walls of the puja room with textured design pattern is a good idea as this



room, with an oil lamp lit, looks festive throughout the year.

An easy way to highlight a wall is by affixing wall-decals. Wall decals are basically stickers that come in varied designs and motifs. Beautiful wall decals with Diwali themed motifs such as earthen lamps, gods and goddesses are all available in the market. Especially for the festive season, wall decals with rangoli pattern designs are preferred. The appeal of wall decals lies in the style quotient that they add to the room. As these are generally eye-catching, care must be taken while selecting the design pattern and their colour and also their placement

on the wall.

Another easy way of doing-up walls is by using wall papers. Wall papers liven-up the space around and are also inexpensive. The number of wall paper designs to choose from is almost innumerable. From varied shades of colours to design patterns and motifs, one can explore unlimited creative possibilities that wallpapers offer. For the festive season, opting for wall papers with metallic textures of gold, copper, silver is a good idea. Also, plastering the chosen wall paper on the walls of the room where guests congregate is a good idea.

If one likes to keep it simple

yet eye-catching then painting walls with a combination of colours is recommended. Referring to the colour pallet for Diwali will help in choosing the right colour. If the festive colour pallet is too gaudy for one's taste, then it must be used in combination with a neutral shade. Many like the idea of using an accent colour in a room by painting one of the walls with a dark shade coupled with a neutral shade on the remaining walls. While shades of orange is commonly used accent colour few other recommended accent colours are deep red, green, purple and darker shades of pink.



FASTFACT

FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON, OPTING FOR WALL PAPERS WITH METALLIC TEXTURES OF GOLD, COPPER, SILVER IS A GOOD IDEA

TECHFILE

SUSTAINABLE HOME DESIGN

Homes based on sustainable designs maximise year-round comfort with minimal impact on the environment

Imagine living in a self-sustained home. One that features wind-powered electric turbines or solar panels to generate electricity, reclaimed wood flooring, low-carbon paints, water-saving WCs, a rainwater harvesting unit - everything based on ecofriendly architecture. Alternative design approaches that align themselves with the environment, and help you live in harmony with the planet are gaining popularity. These planet-conscious homes are built on the strategy to reduce energy consumption and utility costs.

"The building construction industry contributes significantly towards global warming and climate change. Buildings are the largest energy consumers and greenhouse gas emitters both in urban and rural areas. Eco-friendly 'green' homes have a significant role to play in this context, reducing a building's carbon footprint through sustainable design strategies. The three well-known tenets of sustainable design are reduce, reuse and recycle. This philosophy can also be extended towards the creation of eco-homes," Nuru Karim, founder and principal architect of a design firm, explains.

DESIGN BASICS

Architect Natasha Iype lists down the basic structure of an eco-friendly home:

Natural light and ventilation: Large windows, wide verandahs, air channels for circulation, and thermally-conductive materials, are all features which reduce the necessity for artificial light and ventilation. It also makes the house look spacious and helps in channelising the flow of natural energy.



Building materials: Materials that are natural, such as mud blocks and terracotta, reduce the impact of construction on the environment. These materials must be used functionally, which creates a better aesthetic.

Install solar panels: Solar panels may be expensive at first, but the longterm savings you can put into your pocket is a good example of the benefits of shifting to sustainable options. By taking advantage of solar power, you can bring down your energy consumption and supply excess energy, if any, to your utility company.

Rainwater harvesting: Install a rainwater harvesting system while building your home to collect rainwater from roofs and store it in a tank. The collected water can then be used for other purposes such as cleaning and sprinkler systems.

Water conserving fixtures: Low-flow faucets, toilets and showerheads are few ways to conserve water. They can cut down on your water bills and make your home much more environment-friendly.

SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION

It is important to choose the right fittings and fixtures while building an eco friendly house. A significant part of the design is based on the materials and fixtures used. "Windows and doors represent usually 20-25 percent of a house and in apartments the percentage is nearly 30-35 percent. So using the right fenestration solution will make a difference to the eco-

friendliness of the building. PVCU is not only an excellent material when it comes to thermal conductivity, but also produces lower carbon footprint than aluminium. It is important that the installation of the windows and doors also meets the thermal specification," states Robert Hoellrigl, president, Research Development & Design, the world's first uPVC windows and doors solutions provider.

Use of efficient resources and implementing practices that are environment-sensitive is the need of the hour.

"Use local materials as much as possible to reduce the carbon footprint. From roofing, building material, cabinets, counters insulation and flooring, ensure that products such as reclaimed wood, recycled plastic, recycled glass or natural products such as bamboo, cork and linoleum are used," suggests architect and interior designer Pinakin Patel.

-Aditi Sharma

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