How to Choose the Right Vinyl Siding Paint Colors

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What color should you pick for your home's exterior? Are there rules you need to follow? Which colors go together and which ones don't? Deciding on a whole different color for your siding is a daunting task. Nonetheless, the one thing you're certain of is that you don't like the existing shade and you want to go a different route.

Before you dive head-first into your home-improvement project, here are some useful tips for choosing the right vinyl paint colors.

1. Consider the Neighborhood Context

While you may have found the perfect opportunity to flex your creative muscles, it doesn't mean that you should paint your house a combination of all the primary colors. Well, you could, but if you live in a somewhat conservative neighborhood, the HOA will likely be knocking on your door as soon as your choice of paint colors begins to look a little off in their eyes. Ensure that you get your hands on the rules and paint inside the lines – so to speak.

2. Use Online Resources

Most major paint manufacturers have a color visualizer tool on their website. Benjamin Moore and Sherwin-Williams are just a few of the ones that have this resource. It allows you to upload photos of the exterior of your home and use the interface to test out how different colors might look on your vinyl siding. It's a great way to get inspiration for the paint colors to use and get an idea of what works and what doesn't.

3. Use Paint Samples to Confirm Your Color Choices

While visualizers certainly come in handy to help narrow down your choices, there's no substitute for using real paint samples and brush-outs. Purchase a few test sizes of the paints and apply some color on the front and back sides of your home. Pay close attention to how the differences in lighting at different times of day affect the appearance of the paint color. That way, you have a fair idea of how the finished product might look.

Vinyl Siding Paint Color Schemes

Any great home exterior color scheme has three main parts:

- A dominant field color for the majority of the exterior surface area
- An eye-catching accent color that's painted on the shutters and doors and is designed to make other small but crucial details of the house stand out
- A bold trim color that's supposed to enhance the appearance of the edges without overpowering the other accents

Color schemes exist to take the guesswork out of picking the right colors for your vinyl siding. They provide a great guide on which ones go together and which ones don't when picking colors that match your style and personality.

Monochromatic Color Scheme
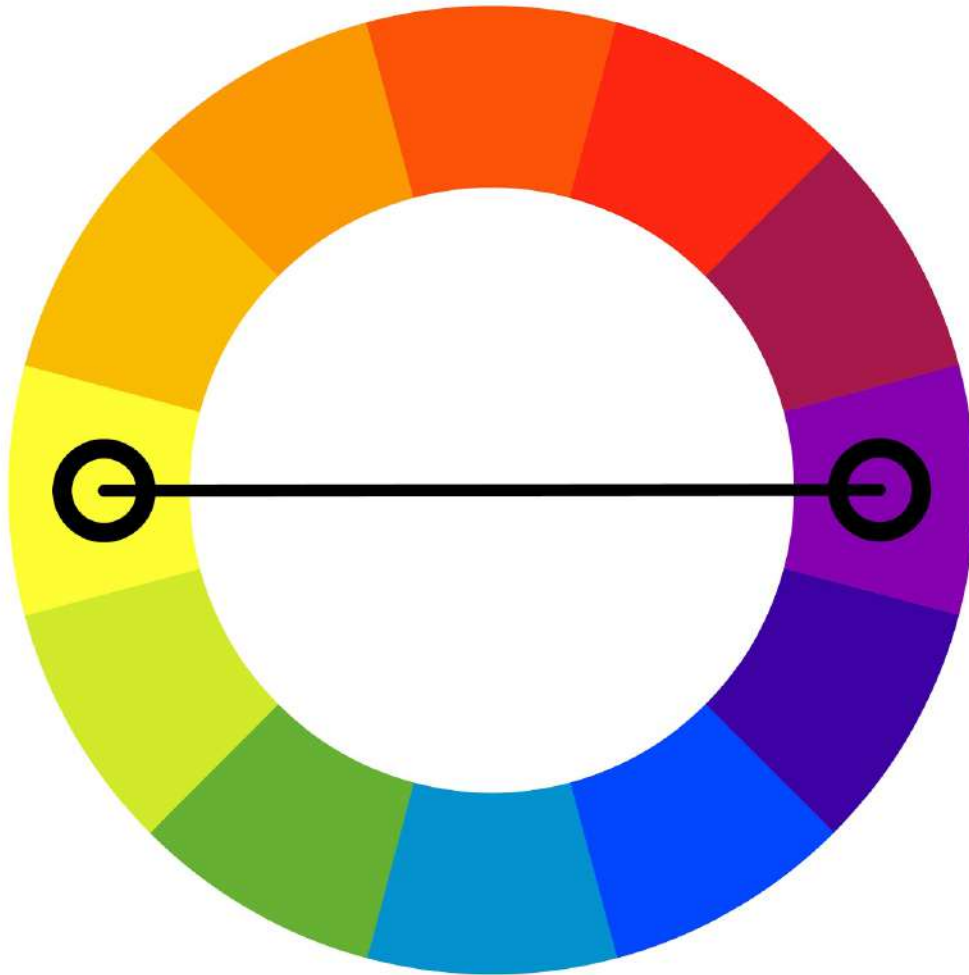
Monochromatic Color Wheel

In this scheme, you have a single base color, which forms the foundation on which all the other colors are built. All the colors in a particular scheme have to be derived from the base color. So what you have is a base hue, and various tones, shades, and tints of that hue.

In most cases, the base hue has to be one of the accepted primary, secondary, or tertiary hues. However, some designs deviate slightly from this rule and can use any single color as the base, provided that all the other supporting colors are derived from it.

White is both an acceptable and desirable accent color in all monochromatic schemes since it is essentially the lightest shade possible of every single color there is.
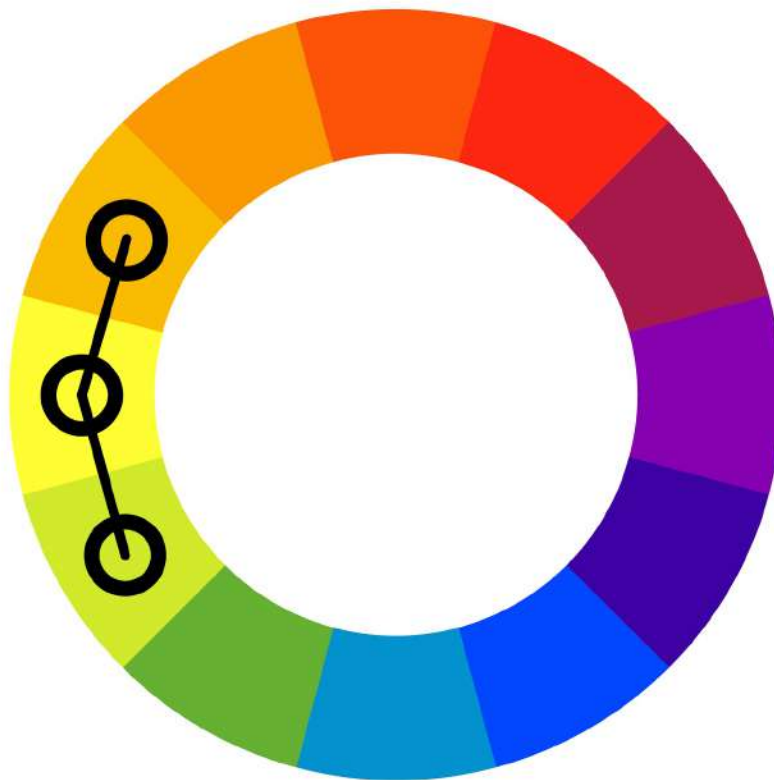
Complementary Color Scheme

This scheme combines two different colors that fall opposite each other on the color wheel. The result? You end up with two contrasting colors, which will naturally include a warm and cool color. When used with the same saturation level, it makes for a vibrant high-contrast scheme designed to make any house stand out boldly from the pack.
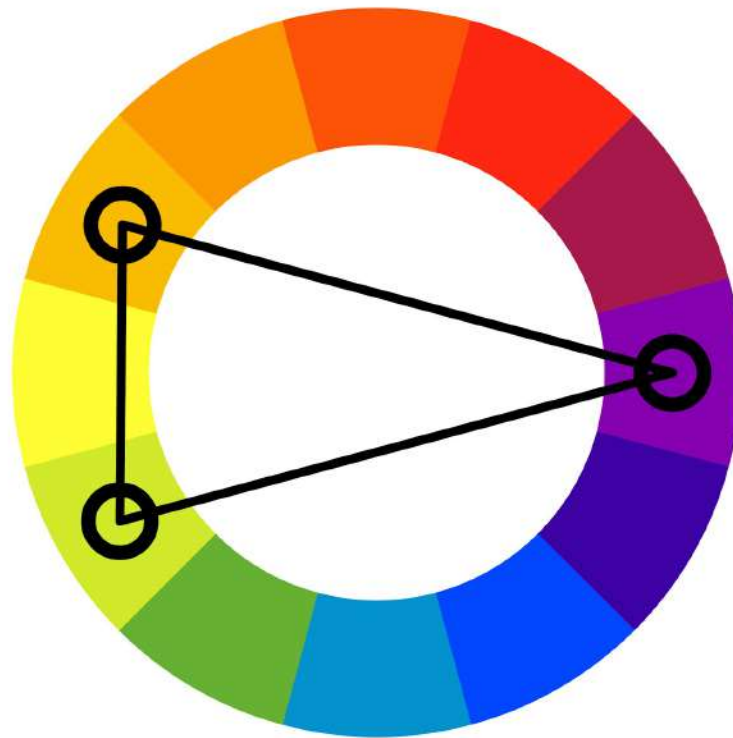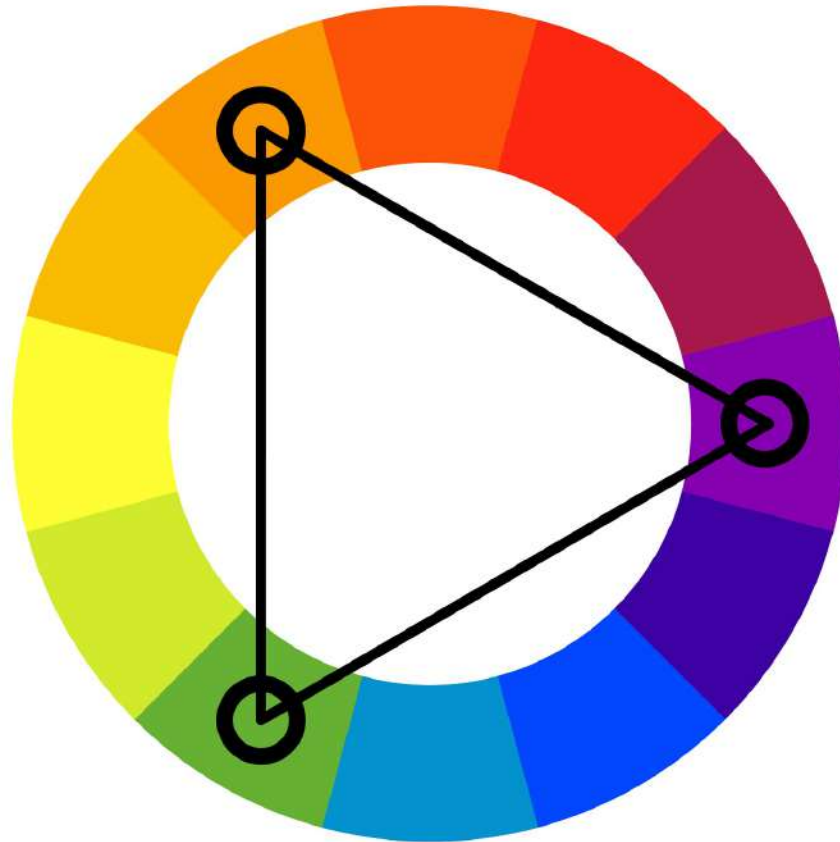
Analogous Color Scheme

In this scheme, three colors that are adjacent to each other on the color wheel are used. They harmonize seamlessly together and are perfect for painting large exterior surfaces. So the vinyl siding, trims, and accent surfaces can all incorporate a family of analogous colors. An example of an analogous scheme would be a combination of blue-green-yellow, yellow and yellow-orange, or blue-green, green, and green-yellow.

Split-Complementary Scheme

This scheme combines three colors chosen as follows: Select the first color from any of the ones on the color wheel. Then look at its complementary color on the opposite side of the wheel. Select the second and third color from the ones that appear on either side of this complementary color.
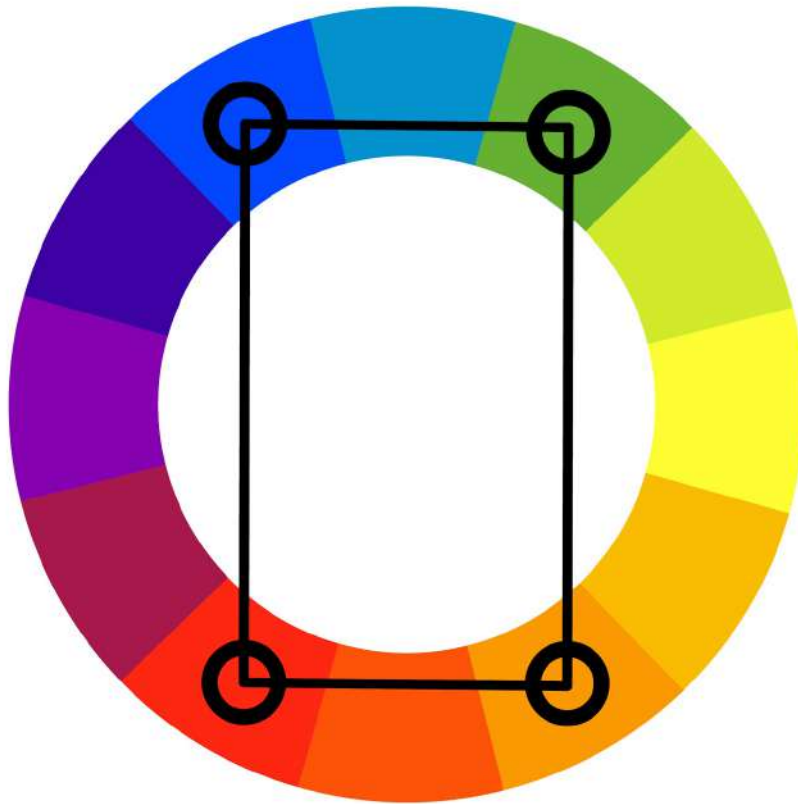
Triad Color Scheme

In this scheme, you pick any three colors that are evenly spaced along the color wheel to form a triadic pattern. A triad color scheme may include red, orange, and blue; or orange, green and violet; or even red, yellow, and blue.

Usually, one of the three colors works well as the dominant one, while the other two as accents. However, you need to be careful with the saturation of the colors you pick; otherwise, they may all end up clashing with each other.

Tetrad Color Scheme

In this scheme, you work with two sets of complementary colors to make four in total. Tetrad color schemes can be particularly challenging, but if used in the right way can produce a rich color scheme. A great way to harmonize four colors would be to use one as the dominant and the other three as accents. Alternatively, you can use muted tones of all four colors. Ideally, any tetrad scheme will have a combination of two warm colors and two cool ones, and a delicate balance of all four.

At the end of the day, choosing the right color scheme for your vinyl siding, all boils down to your personality. Are you vibrant and daring enough to go the tetradic route, or would you rather play it safe and keep it monochrome? Experiment and see what you like. What you find out might surprise you!

Learn more:

- Vinyl Siding Painting Guide

- Cost to Paint Vinyl Siding (Calculator)

- How to Get Paint Off Vinyl Siding

- Vinyl Siding Pros and Cons

- More Info On Vinyl Siding Colors