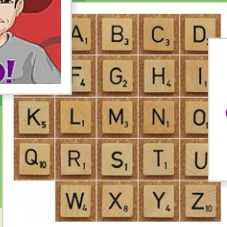
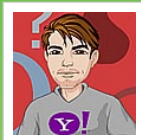


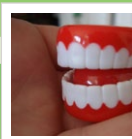


YAHOO! ANSWERS

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2009



Y! UPDATES





Lou

STAFF

Lou is the Community Manager for Y! Answers. You can find Lou answering questions in the Forum, on Answers, or responding to emails from the community.

Hello everyone,

I'm Lou, the Community Manager at Yahoo! Answers. Now I really don't look like a Yamster or anything furry for that matter. I'm actually a normal user like all you guys. So when I'm not using Yahoo! Answers, you can find me being the peacemaker on Yahoo! Answers.

Yahoo! Answers has been around since 2005, and we just keep on growing and growing. Did you know our community has more than 179 million users AND there's more than 1 billion question and answers on the site? We can truly say we have the biggest brain on the Internet.

There are many ways to use Yahoo! Answers. Are you the asker? Are you the answerer? Or maybe you just like to kill time and browse the site? It doesn't matter how you use this site, Yahoo! Answers is a great place to get advice about anything, and it's all right here!

Just the other day I saw this image online and I thought, "This has to be my wallpaper on my phone!" I thought I was Internet-savvy and could get a picture from the web to my phone. Boy was I wrong! Thank goodness for Yahoo! Answers. I quickly searched for "How do I get a pic from my PC to my cell phone?" and poof! I got my answer!

So, as we did last year, we've put together all our favorite highlights from 2009. Look at all the fun, quirky, and interesting questions and answers that came from you. There's a corpus of knowledge growing here, so please feel free to show friends and tell them that Yahoo! Answers is a whole new way to find and share information.

Enjoy!
Lou
Sunnyvale, California

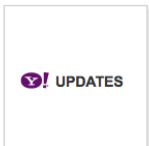
Highlights from Yahoo! Answers in 2009...



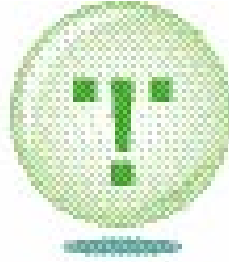
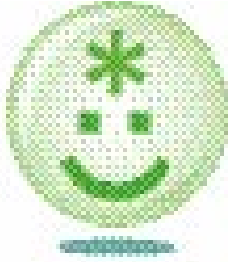
Halloween Contest: In October, we asked our community to dress up our Yamster in a costume or simply create a ghoulish avatar for Halloween. After a long debate, we chose one Grand Prize Winner (congratulations, Cameron!), and three category winners.



Favorite Blog Posts: We've had a lot of great posts this year, but none compare to our community's favorites: Ask Mike: Harry Potter vs. Twilight and Ask Mike: The chicken and the road. We received great responses and we thank everyone for reading daily.



New Features: We brought some new additions to Answers this year, including suggested questions, a new, redesigned category page, and updates. Now you can receive more questions that are relevant to you. You can also share mini-stories with your network.



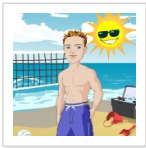
Yahoo! Answers: the largest knowledge-sharing community

Yahoo! Answers is the number one Q&A site where people come to ask questions on any topic, and get answers by sharing facts, opinions, and personal experiences.

Every day millions of people across the globe are asking and answering questions on various topics, from food to finance, pets to politics. Whatever the topic - we've got it covered!

Both entertaining and educational, Yahoo! Answers contains over 1 BILLION questions and answers across 12 languages and 26 countries giving you the opportunity to connect with people from around the world whilst expanding your knowledge.

What Answers means to some of our contributors...



With the advent of the internet, the world is ever shrinking. We can communicate at any given moment with any person, anywhere in the world. Answers is the networking of people, of thoughts and ideas, pro and con, from all over the world. It is the collective consciousness of humanity.
nuckelbuster - Answers Top Contributor



My enjoyment of Answers is seeing how we can utilise our years of learning to help others learn too. Often it is the personal touch to the answer that makes it come alive, rather than some wooden cut and paste from a technical journal. It is an important resource, one that is improving.
AI Scusi - Answers Top Contributor



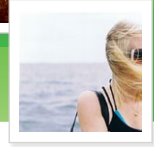
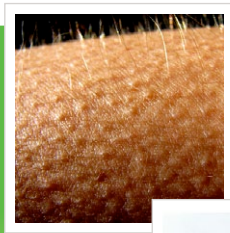
I view the community mainly as an International democracy that has great potential to help people overcome self-destructive stereotypical thinking. As part of this efficient and widespread exchange of opinion and fact, it gives you back more, in kind, than you put into it.
Lone Wolf - Answers Top Contributor



We were stunned when our healthy athletic son was diagnosed and died from cancer last year. Yahoo Answers has given me an opportunity to educate young people and caregivers about adolescent and young adult cancers. Hopefully I can make a difference.
Panda - Answers Top Contributor

GOOSEBUMPS

The term “goosebumps” is common in the United States, but in other parts of the world this phenomenon can be called “goose flesh” or “goose pimples.”



Alexa*

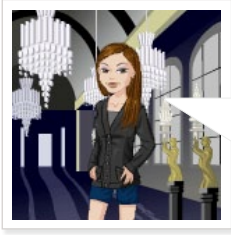
What causes “goosebumps”?

Everybody gets goosebumps, when they are cold or scared, but what really is the cause of goosebumps? I want information on what causes them, and generally, about them! I get them almost every morning, so I might as well know what's going on [:

Posted in [Health > Skin Conditions](#) in 2009



This question received:
711 STARS



Katie C

Best Answer

Goosebumps are created when tiny muscles at the base of each hair, known as arrectores pilorum, contract and pull the hair erect. The reflex is started by the sympathetic nervous system, which is in general responsible for many fight-or-flight responses.

As a response to cold: in animals covered with fur or hair, the erect hairs trap air to create a layer of insulation. Goose bumps can also be a response to anger or fear: the erect hairs make the animal appear larger, in order to intimidate enemies. This can be observed in the intimidation displays of chimpanzees, in stressed mice and rats, and in frightened cats. In humans, it can even extend to piloerection as a reaction to hearing nails scratch on a chalkboard, listening to awe-inspiring music, feeling or remembering strong and positive emotions (e.g., after winning a sports event), or to an intellectual or spiritual epiphany.

Piloerection as a response to cold or emotion is vestigial in humans; as humans retain only very little body hair, the reflex (in humans) now provides no known benefit.

Source:

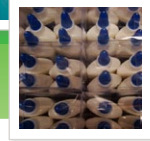
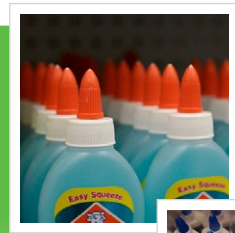
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goose_bumps



This answer received:
754 THUMBS-UP

GLUE

The term glue refers to any form of adhesive that is used to bond two items, surfaces, or substances together.



Kiera

Why doesn't glue stick to the glue bottle?

I was looking at a glue bottle and this question just occurred to me.

Posted in [Chemistry](#) in 2009



neurodiverse

Best Answer

Glue does not stick to the bottle because it only becomes sticky as it hardens when it comes into contact with air.

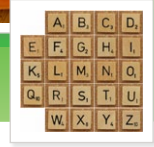
In the bottle, there is very little air. The glue is actually pushed out because of the water it contains. When it comes into contact with air, the water evaporates and the glue begins to dry.



This answer received:
1 THUMBS-UP

ABCDEF...

Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious is perhaps one of the most popular long words amongst young children, courtesy of the musical, "Mary Poppins."



Frank

What is the longest English word?

Without proper nouns, names etc.

Posted in [Words & Wordplay](#) in 2009



This question received:
217 STARS



Pac-man

Best Answer

Pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanocon... is, according to the Oxford English Dictionary, "a word alleged to mean 'a lung disease caused by the inhalation of volcanic ash, causing inflammation in the lungs.'"

Source:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Longest_word_in_English



This answer received:
442 THUMBS-UP

LIGHT IN THE FRIDGE

In 1937, more than 2 million Americans owned refrigerators. In 1947, GE introduced the two-door refrigerator-freezer combo, and by 1955 80% of American homes had fridges.



NicolllE\$;

Why is there a light in the fridge and not in the freezer?

Okay, first of all im not talking about my fridge in general. I've always wondered.

Posted in [Other - Food & Drink](#) in 2009



This question received:

2 STARS



ck1

Best Answer

This is a guess, but I'd say that the freezer is meant to be closed most of the time to keep items frozen and therefore gets less "traffic" than the refrigerator. A light in the refrigerator would be more necessary to find those small items that get thrown into it. Besides which, the refrigerator is generally larger and used more frequently.

Another thing I found is:

"Because the temperature in a freezer is much lower than of a refrigerator, a much more expensive shatterproof bulb would have to be used. In fact, if you put a common household bulb in the fridge, it will be fine. But put it in the freezer, and it should crack after a few hours (or days, depending on the temperature you freezer operates at)."

It does make sense that a more expensive and specialized bulb would be required, which would hike the cost and be more difficult to maintain.

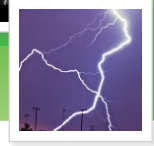
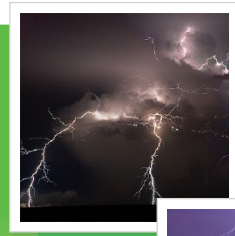


This answer received:

5 THUMBS-UP

LIGHTNING

Scientists believe roughly 16 million lightning storms that occur each year.



larninCO

When lightning strikes is it accurate to count until you hear thunder to determine distance?

When you see a lightning flash, I was always told to count until you hear the thunder then you know how many miles away the lightning struck. Is this really accurate?

Posted in [Weather](#) in 2009



cyswxman

Best Answer

Yes, you count, but then divide the number of seconds you counted by 5 to get the distance in miles. Sound in the air travels at about 1100 feet per second so 5 seconds is roughly a mile of travel.

Source:

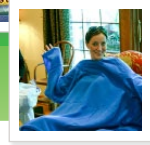
I'm a meteorologist



This answer received:
1 THUMBS-UP

SNUGGIE

The Snuggie, a sleeved fleece blanket, has become a footnote of pop culture after rising to popularity in 2008 & 2009.



Mr. Lizard

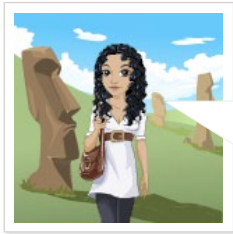


This question received:
10 STARS

Do I need to wear pants under my Snuggie blanket when I wear it to work on casual Friday?

The infomercial shows druid-like people wearing them to sporting events and around a campfire, but it is not clear what to wear underneath. Also, any ideas to accessorize the Snuggie? I have access to a BeDazzler.

Posted in [Etiquette](#) in 2009



My Secret Identity



This answer received:
4 THUMBS-UP

Best Answer

I think BeDazzling the outline of a pair of pants onto the Snuggie would make it Friday-appropriate; the outline of a work shirt and tie would enable you to wear it all week long.

If your office is especially chilly, you may want to add a pair of leg warmers under the Snuggie, maybe a dickey as well.

Possible accessories, depending on your mood: a walking stick, crown, stilts, fake moustache, Darth Vader mask, or white Mickey Mouse hands gloves.

I hope Friday equals company picture day!

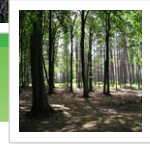
:)

Source:

Mr. Lizard + Snuggie = Fashion Chameleon

PHILOSOPHY

This philosophical question is attributed to Irish philosopher, George Berkley and relates back to the theories of immaterialism and subjective idealism



JillieSchmillie

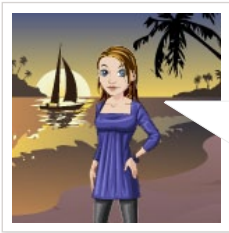
If a tree falls in the woods and no one is around to hear it, does it still make a sound?

I know this is such a cliché question, but I started thinking about it and realized that it's actually a bit complex.

Posted in [Mythology & Folklore](#) in 2009



This question received:
248 STARS



Autumn

Best Answer

Well sound is: "the sensation produced by stimulation of the organs of hearing by vibrations transmitted through the air or other medium."

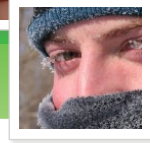
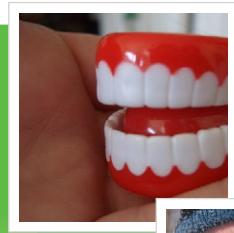
So technically, if the energy vibrations that would cause sound never reach the 'organs of hearing', then no- it does not make a sound.

It's kind of like the 'Schroeders Cat' experiment...you never know unless you observe it, but to observe it would change the outcome...

CHATTER

The term “chatter” dates back to the 13th century and means to “click repeatedly or uncontrollably.”

<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Chatter>



Susan

Why do our teeth chatter when we are cold?

As most people do, I shiver when I get cold, but lately my teeth have begun to chatter too. Sometimes they chatter lightly then it stops, but other times, my teeth chatter REALLY fast and hard and it takes them a good while to stop. What makes our teeth chatter when we get cold? Thanks to anyone who replies with any useful answers.

Posted in [Dental](#) in 2009



Ahsatin

Best Answer

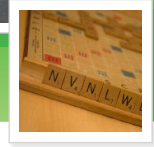
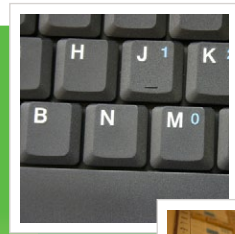
It's actually our muscles rapidly contracting and relaxing trying to produce heat to warm us. The same as when we shiver when we are cold. The chatter is just our teeth touching each other, the actual cause is our muscles that support our jaw.



This answer received:
1 THUMBS-UP

VOWEL, PLEASE

“Rhythms” is the longest English word that contains no vowels, and is still in every day use. Unfortunately, that will still only get you 18 points in Scrabble!



Franky

Is there a word without vowels in it?

In English, are there any words without vowels in them?

Posted in [Trivia](#) in 2009



This question received:
593 STARS



Pitademon2000

Best Answer

Quite a few. Even more if you go Welsh. They love subbing W and Y in places of vowels.

however: Cry, try, myth, brr, lynx, sty, fry, syzygy, cwm, dryly, dry, and sky pop to my mind

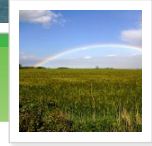
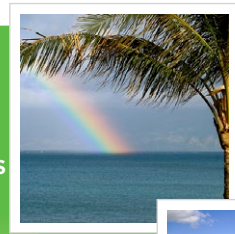
(cwm is my favorite in scrabble but is a real word, lol)



This answer received:
6 THUMBS-UP

RAINBOW

In nature, rainbows occur when light reflects off of moisture in the air. The different colors are produced by the refraction of light within the water droplets.



Amazing[;

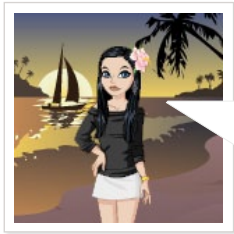
How would you describe the colors of the rainbow individually to a blind person?

This person has always been blind, therefore has never seen color. And I'm talking standard red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.

Posted in [Philosophy](#) in 2009



This question received:
821 STARS



***Lisa**

Best Answer

I would describe them with emotions or feelings since these would probably allow the person to visualize the colors better because he/she has a heightened sense of spiritual and tangible feeling due to his/her lack of sight. As I have never been blind before (lol), I don't know if this would be accurate, but in this way, you can also relate to the person the general connections and connotations attributed to these colors as well.

Red - The color that you "feel" when you are furious or even in love. It's the color of passion, whether positive (love) or negative (anger).
Orange - The color that you "feel" when you are outrageous, wacky, or crazy.

Yellow - The color that you "feel" when you are joyful, happy, delighted, or optimistic. It's the color the you "feel" when you just can't stop smiling.

Green - The color that you "feel" when you are outdoors, sitting in the grass and breathing in the air.

Blue - The color that you "feel" when you are alone to meditate and be calm and thoughtful. It is also the color that you "feel" when you are sad, depressed, or crying.

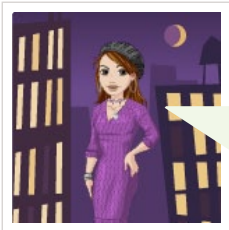
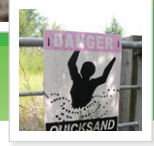
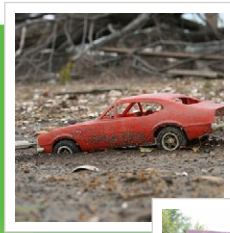
Purple - The color that you "feel" when you don't know exactly what you feel. It's mysterious yet regal.



This answer received:
1278 THUMBS-UP

QUICKSAND

Quicksand can be found in a variety of places, including: riverbanks, lakes, marshes or on the coast.

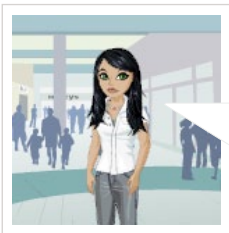


Honest Dreamer

What is quicksand? Why is it different from normal sand?

I don't understand quicksand. What is it composed of and why does it suck you in? If you don't struggle as much, why don't you sink as fast? Also, where is it commonly found? Is it moister than sand? What does it feel like? What does it look like? What are my chances of ever being around quicksand? I am just painfully curious about this. Thank you for any information you can provide me with.

Posted in [Earth Sciences & Geology](#) in 2009



Quintessence

Best Answer

Quicksand isn't the same as sand, from what I understand. It's a mixture of sand with water or another liquid. One example of something that's like quicksand is sand near the water's edge at the beach. When you stand there for a while and let your feet sink in, it creates a type of suction that makes it hard to move out (not impossible though, only your feet are trapped). Also note that the sand near the water's edge may seem dry, but stepping on it releases water. The reason you sink in quicksand is because you're unsettling the mixture and causing it to become more of a liquid. Struggling speeds up this process.

Quicksand, according to such movies as Indiana Jones and The Princess Bride, is found in rainforests and jungles in tropical climates. Technically, it is more moist than sand, though it may not appear to be at first. It feels like (as I said earlier) that wet sand at the beach (whether that is a pleasant feeling or not is really up to you). Looks can be deceiving, and quicksand proves this, because when settled it acts like a solid, and relatively light things, such as leaves, can rest on it. This adds to the danger.

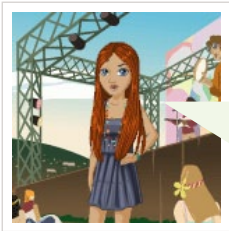
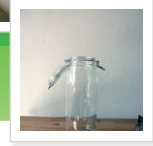
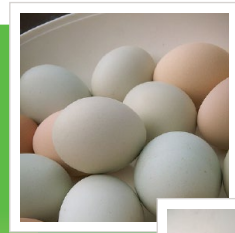
Your chances of ever being around quicksand are slim, because the conditions needed for quicksand to exist are very precise and hard to create, as the Mythbusters found out.



This answer received:
1 THUMBS-UP

PHYSICS

To tell whether an egg is raw or if its been hard-boiled, give it a spin! If it spins, it has been hard-boiled. If it wiggles, it's raw.



Kaytee76

How does the egg-into-a-jar trick work? What is the explanation?

The trick is where you drop 3 lit matches into a glass empty jar and place a hard boiled egg with no shell on top. The egg eventually falls into the jar after a few seconds. How does this work? What is the explanation?

Posted in [Physics](#) in 2009



Lirpa

Best Answer

The oxygen contained in the jar (a little over 20% of the air) is slowly consumed by the burning matches. This results in decreased air pressure within the jar, which in turns sucks the egg into it.

It will only work if the egg creates an air tight seal long enough for it to get sucked in to the point that gravity can take over and make it fall the rest of the way.



This answer received:
1 THUMBS-UP

Featured Partners on Yahoo! Answers in 2009

We'd like to introduce to our community our Featured Partners from 2009. Everyone has experiences in life that make them knowledgeable about something. Yahoo! Answers provides a way for people to share experience and insights, and also help those who are seeking that insight. It's a two-way connection that really works.

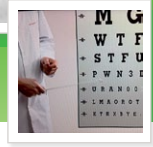
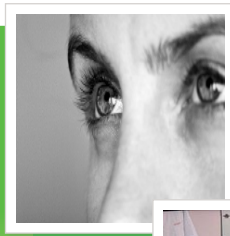
In fact, it has made Yahoo! Answers the place where the world shares knowledge. Because Answers allows the exchange of real answers from real people, our site is the world largest community-driven think tank!

Our featured partners program connects brands with Answers members like you. Through this program brands like Shutterfly, Target, Lasik, L'Oreal, and Verizon have the option of connecting 1-on-1 with anyone from our community and sparking a conversation.



FEATURED PARTNER

LasikPlus: your vision changes throughout your life, but the importance of caring for your eyes and maintaining your sight never goes away.



LasikPlus



This question received:
156 STARS

What is your main reason to get LASIK surgery and what is holding you back?

Your vision changes throughout your life. But the importance of caring for your eyes and maintaining your sight never goes away. With constant advances in technology, more people can now be considered excellent candidates for laser vision correction than ever before. Whether it's the hassle and expense of glasses or contacts, health issues, or even that you missed doing spontaneous activities like cannonballs, you have your own unique reasons for considering laser vision correction. Please share with us, your unique reason.



Wishes are fishes



This answer received:
6 THUMBS-UP

Best Answer

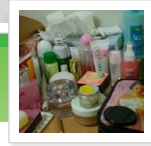
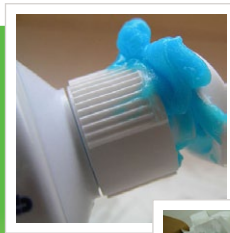
I want laser surgery. I even went to get a pre-exam. They told me that, because my prescription is too high (-10 diopters), they can't perform the surgery without cutting my eye too thin and endangering my vision. I want to get lens implants, but at \$8,000, the procedure is too expensive for me to afford now or any time in the foreseeable future.

The reasons I want my vision corrected:

1. At my prescription, glasses do not give me perfect vision. I have a narrow area of my lenses that are actually my prescription, and the rest is distorted.
2. I want to wear colored contacts. Colored contacts are not available in my prescription.
3. There is always the danger when I am traveling or camping that I could lose my glasses, and then I'd just be out of luck.
4. I'd just plain like to have perfect vision without having to put on glasses or contacts every day!

FEATURED PARTNER

Tom's of Maine: they're not just making toothpaste, deodorant, mouthwash, or soap—they're trying to make a better world with the effective products you need, produced in earth-friendly ways.



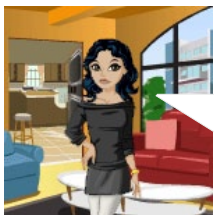
**Tom's of
Maine**



This question received:
191 STARS

How does a company's animal testing policy influence your decision in purchasing their products?

Animal testing is a topic that concerns many people when buying cosmetics and personal care products these days. If you are against animal testing, we'd like to know where you go to find information on products not tested on animals. You can also learn about how Tom's of Maine got FDA approval without testing its toothpaste on animals at <http://www.tomsomaine.com/video-catalog...> Let us know what you think.



Free to Be



This answer received:
50 THUMBS-UP

Best Answer

Animal testing, makes or breaks my choice on everything from shampoo, to make-up, to candy. As a strict vegetarian, animal lover, and a mommy to a plethora of animals: finding products that won't hurt any furry friends is a huge concern to me!

Caringconsumer.com has a great list of cruelty-free products that can be used free of guilt! And more often than not, I check there to see what companies guarantee a product I will be proud to use!

Also, if I'm at the store and can't remember a companies policy- I often do a quick check on the back of the bottle or product and look for those words, "Not tested on animals." Then I'm good to go!

Tom's of Maine products are a favorite around my house, due to their fabulous natural products and animal-testing free ways! :)

Source:

<http://search.caringconsumer.com/>
My own experinces!

FEATURED PARTNER

Shutterfly: a leading Internet-based social expression and personal publishing service that enables consumers to share, print and preserve their memories.



Sam F

How will you celebrate all the Moms in your life this Mother's Day?

Mother's Day is a time to celebrate all of the influential women in your life -- from your mother, to your wife, your mother-in-law, grandmothers, sisters and aunts. What special plans do you have for Mother's Day?



This question received:
341 STARS



Courtney M

Best Answer

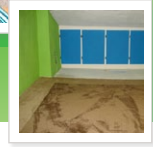
I love scrapbooking and my Mom used to take pictures of me and my brother growing up so there are boxes photos of birthdays, parties, school events, and so on. So I have been spending months organizing photos and creating a special scrapbook for her that I plan to present at brunch on Mother's Day. Now she can enjoy the pictures she took instead of letting them sit in boxes.



This answer received:
5 THUMBS-UP

FEATURED PARTNER

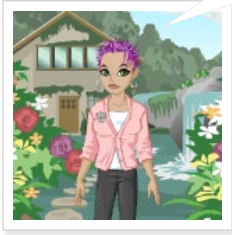
Sherwin-Williams: Since 1866, Sherwin-Williams knows everything there is to know about painting. After all they are the inventor of the ready-mix paint and the paint roller.



Sherwin-Williams



This question received:
123 STARS



Poopy



This answer received:
25 THUMBS-UP

How do you choose paint colors for your home?

Best Answer

First, I find something I like - an article of clothing, a picture in a magazine, a curtain or drapery panel, even a piece of scrapbook paper. Anything that appeals to me is fair game!

Next, I take that thing to the paint chip samples at the store, and compare the cards to my "inspiration" article. I usually get six or seven or more colors that are close to my color(s) - I'll go a shade or two lighter, a shade or two darker, and a few shades with a little more or less gray/black (more or less muted/pure tones).

Then I'll take those paint chips back home and compare them in the light where I'll be painting them - and even at different times of the day, in case sunlight will shine on it or I will be using solely electric light, etc. This is important because I once painted a focal wall what looked to be a deep, rich chocolate brown, when viewed by the natural light coming in from the windows. However, when the the spot lights were later installed, and they focused down on my beautiful chocolate wall, they turned it a really gross shade of orange-y bitersweet!

Anyway, once I have gone through all these steps, a favorite generally emerges, and that's the color I go with. I then try to repeat that color, more or less, in the various rooms of my house. For instance, my current home is done mainly in shades of bright red, moss green, a misty robin's egg blue, chocolate brown, and soft black. In my dining room, it's mostly brown and blue and red, with a little green and black. In my kitchen, it's mostly black, brown, and red with a little blue and green. The family room is mostly red and green with a little blue and black. My bedroom is mostly blue and brown with a little red and green, and so on.... This way, one space "flows" into another and no room looks too jarring or out of place - really important with an open floor plan like mine.



Thank you to those who helped create and contribute to the Answers Guide

Yahoo! Answers is nothing without its contributors, the askers and answerers who share their wisdom and expertise daily. Thank you to all of our Knowledge Partners, Featured Sponsors, and most especially the community who contributed to Yahoo! Answers in 2009.



Share the Answers Guide

Enjoyed our Highlights from 2009? Feel there's someone in your life who needs to know a little bit of everything or perhaps some more about something? Why not share our favorite highlights? Email the PDF to forward our Highlights from 2009 and spread the love.

Copyright Information

The Yahoo! Answers 'Highlights of 2009' is Copyright © 2009 Yahoo! All Rights Reserved. For more info on the Yahoo! Copyright policy please visit:
<http://info.yahoo.com/copyright/details.html>

Read the 2009 Highlights from another country



Argentina



Australia



Brazil



France



Germany



India



Indonesia



Italy



Malaysia



Mexico



Phillipines



Singapore



Spain



Thailand



United Kingdom



United States



Vietnam



en Español

