

Soft coral works well with ocean hues, two current color trends.

Riding a wave of oceaninspired color

Living Coral is hot now with seaside blues on the horizon

Get ready for a sea of change, especially if you love ocean-inspired hues.

This fall, expect to see soft orange-pink tones in everything from appliances to upholstery. According to trends expert Pantone Color Institute, 2019 is the year of Living Coral, a shade inspired by undersea reefs.

In making its "Color of the Year" prediction, Pantone pulls from fashion runways and consumer product lines to pick out a common shade that looks both fresh and defining. For example, that ubiquitous millennial pink was 2016's color choice, Rose Quartz.

Shades of not-quite-pastel orange have been popping up in clothing and home fashions for awhile, peaking this year with a wave of coral. Pantone describes Living Coral as "animating and life affirming." It's a color that "energizes and enlivens with a softer edge."

Living Coral also symbolizes awareness of the beauty and fragility of ocean life. Coral, the reef-building sea creature, is only this healthy pinkish-orange color when it's alive and surrounded by a healthy environment.

While coral will continue to be a common color through 2019, more oceaninspired blues and cool greens are on the near horizon.

Like its choice of Living Coral, Pantone is expected to continue to look to the seaside for inspiration for 2020. Pantone's current fashion forecast leans on watery blue and green shades, accented with driftwood browns and sandy whites. The effect is cooling, stress reducing and inviting; a perfect combination for a relaxed home environment or easy breezy fashion.

And like in nature, these ocean tones work well with coral, too.

Before diving into sea-style decorating, a word of caution: All-out nautical themes may be best left dockside (unless you live on a boat or at a marina).

Instead, be a beachcomber, picking up natural notes that cast a relaxing mood. Seagrass and pearl-like shell accents go with the coming soft blue wave. Of course, so does Living Coral.

BY DEBBIE ARRINGTON

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