

Shedding Light on The Situation

A color's Light Reflectance Value (LRV) measures the amount of visible and usable light that reflects from or absorbs into a painted surface. Simply put, LRV measures the percentage of light a paint color reflects.

Light Reflectance Value

LRV is measured on a scale that ranges from zero (absolute black, absorbing all light and heat) to 100 percent (pure white, reflecting all light). Building and design professionals—from architects and engineers to interior designers and color consultants—use these measurements as guidelines to predict how light or dark a color will appear. The values are also used by lighting designers to calculate the number and type of light fixtures needed to provide a certain amount of light for interior spaces.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Accessibility Guidelines recommends a 70% light reflectance value or higher for those with impaired vision, but this is not a strict requirement. There are a number of color combinations in the 60-70% range that work well.

Knowing a color's LRV is helpful when coordinating colors or creating a mood. It also helps businesses, schools, and homes stay energy efficient—choosing a color with a larger LRV probably won't require as much lighting or air conditioning as a color that soaks up light and warms easily.

Light Reflectance Value Scale (LRV)

	0%
	10%
	20%
	30%
	40%
	50%
	60%
	70%
	80%
	90%
	100%

Examples of LRV



Monet Magic 0665 - LRV 66

Monet Magic, a soft blue from the ColorEssentials Collection, adds a splash of cool color above this bedroom's wainscoting. Monet Magic has an LRV of 66, so it reflects much of the room's natural and artificial light. Colors with an LRV above 50 are lighter and bounce back more light than they absorb. Higher LRVs help create an illuminated "daytime" feel.



Weaver's Tool 0177 - LRV 25

The walls of this open dining room gain welcoming warmth with Weaver's Tool, a warm brown from the ColorEssentials Collection. Weaver's Tool has an LRV of 25—much lower than Monet Magic. Any LRV less than 50 will be on the darker side, soaking up more light than it reflects. Additional lighting, such as the fixture above the table, is necessary to add more light to the room because the walls absorb much of it. The color's low LRV creates an intimate dining space while a color with a higher LRV might make the room seem more expansive.

Identifying LRV

Now that you know the importance of LRV, remember where to find the number! Diamond Vogel has made it easy with three ways to find each color's distinct LRV:

Back of Color Samples: Browsing paint samples? Check for the LRV on the back of our color samples or indexed in the back of our fan deck.

Diamond Vogel's Color Notations Page: Hatching a plan? Visit our Color Notations page for an easy-to-use online database that allows sorting by paint number, paint name, or LRV percentage.

<https://www.diamondvogel.com/architectural/color-notations>



Number	Color Name	LRV	Page
0266	October Harvest	18	93
0267	Season Finale	10	93
0268	Rich Oak	76	94
0269	Sahara Wind	65	94
0270	Graham Crus	55	94
0271	Clover Hone	42	94
0272	Mineral Wat	33	94
0273	Sandstone	17	94
0274	Polished M	10	94
0275	Highlight	82	95
0276	Gold Taffet	71	95
0277	Golden Fre	60	95
0278	Barberry S	49	95
0279	Garden C	37	95
0280	Wicker B	20	95
0281	Olive Gol	9	95
0626	Blue Depths	18	93
0627	Into the Stratosphere	10	93
0628	Illuminating Experience	76	94
0629	Polished Cotton	65	94
0630	Star Mist	55	94
0631	Chicago Skyline	42	94
0632	Breath-Taking View	33	94
0633	Cape Cod Bay	17	94
0634	Day Spa	10	94
0635	Aquafir	82	95
0636	Empress Lila	71	95
0637	Marzena Dream	60	95
0638	Watery Sea	49	95
0639	Acapulco Dive	37	95
0640	Skylla	20	95
0641	Dancing Sea	9	95
0642	Sea Foam Mist	70	96

Diamond Vogel's Color Finder: Looking online? Visit the Color Finder for an interactive, visually-enhanced resource to learn important details about each color, including the LRV. <https://www.diamondvogel.com/architectural/colorfinder>



Color Finder

Color name or number

Blue Bliss
Number: 0675

Color Information:
 Number: 0675
 LRV: 24
 RGB: 0 145 168
 Hex: #0096AC

Color Schemes:

Similar Colors:

[RETURN TO COLOR FINDER](#)

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Due to variances in computer monitors, colors displayed may vary from actual paint colors. For best results, visit your Diamond Vogel Paint Store and refer to our color chips or samples.

Reflect on This

A paint color's LRV is commonly looked over, but by understanding the number's value (pun intended!), you can simplify your selection process and be on your way to uncovering the best color for your space.