

## Chapter 1 : The Color Guide to Wicker Furniture - Design Furnishings

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First, prep your piece of furniture. It will peel and chip and it will not last. Remove all drawers before painting and work on those separately. Medium-grit sandpaper should be fine. I use fine-grit between paint coats. If you are painting as opposed to staining, there is no need to strip the finish or sand it down to the bare wood. Simply removing the glossy finish will suffice. If the surface is already dull, you can skip this step. Prime After your furniture is dry and dust-free, paint on some primer. This helps your paint adhere to the piece better and it also covers any stains or discolorations in the wood. Oil-based primer is also great for furniture. Sand Again Then, sand again! This helps you attain a much more professional and even finish. Be sure to remove the sanding dust each time—tack cloth works great. For furniture, I use interior latex paint, usually in a semi-gloss finish. It will show every fingerprint and flaw and will be harder to clean. The glossier the finish, the easier to clean. Paint thin coats, and I will repeat: This step is very important if you want to achieve an even finish. I normally paint coats total. Now, there are a few different ways to go about painting. You can use a paint sprayer, or even regular spray paint just get a decent brand! I usually use a small foam roller on the main parts of the furniture and a brush in the hard to reach crevices, painting the crevices first. The roller helps prevent visible brush strokes. Protect After your last coat of paint has dried for at least 24 hours, you are ready to seal it. Or you can just leave it alone and let it cure for about 30 days. Sealing your furniture provides extra protection for your finish and also creates a wipeable, easy to clean surface. If you are using a white or extremely light color of paint, I highly recommend that you do NOT use polyurethane to seal your finish. It can yellow over time. On any other paint color, it should be fine, and I recommend Minwax Wipe-On Poly because it is extremely easy to use. I like the Satin finish. I really prefer to use a water-based topcoat though like Minwax Polycrylic. Another option, which I love, that can be used on any color including whites, is furniture wax. You just wipe it on I use cheesecloth to apply it, let it dry for minutes, and then buff it with a clean cloth until you get it as shiny as you want it. This is what I used on my dresser. It would be a shame to cause damage to all of that hard work by handling it too soon! The dresser in the photo was just slightly distressed using fine grit sandpaper. I distressed it after my last coat of paint and before applying my wax. Paint has an amazing power to transform any piece. I hope this tutorial has been helpful for you! If you have any questions about how to paint furniture, please feel free to leave a comment and let me know. You Might Also Like:

## Chapter 2 : Andrew Brunt (Author of Illustrated Guide To Furniture)

*Phaidon Guide to Furniture by Brunt, Andrew and a great selection of similar Used, New and Collectible Books available now at [www.nxgvision.com](http://www.nxgvision.com)*

Wicker furniture is available in almost any color of the rainbow. Learn more about the various colors of wicker and how they fit into your home. Basics about Wicker Contrary to popular belief, the term wicker is a general classification as opposed to a certain material. It is a broad term used to describe an array of natural and synthetic materials used to create beautiful furniture. Fibers classified as wicker furniture include bamboo, rattan, sea grass and cane as well as synthetic materials such as resin and vinyl. As a result, wicker comes in a many different colors. Natural fibers have their own unique tones while synthetic materials can be dyed or painted any color. Many natural forms of wicker can also be specially painted. Often natural wicker furnishings are painted white. People may choose a certain type of wicker because they like the distinct neutral color associated with it. Natural wicker tones range from beige to yellow to brown. Consider these various types of wicker and the hues they tend to be naturally. Reed "is found inside the center of rattan and is a flexible material often used for wicker furniture accessories. Bamboo "looks a lot like rattan but it has a hollow core while rattan is solid in the center. Bamboo has distinctive ridges where the leaves once were rather than being smooth. The natural color of bamboo is usually a blonde tone. Cane "is the outer skin of rattan that is cut into strips and woven into furniture. Its natural state has a glossy beige or brown appearance. Most people prefer the look of natural cane rather than having it stained or painted. Kubu "is a type of cane that is treated in wet clay to achieve a soft gray color. Often this is a top choice for wicker furniture buyers who like an ashen gray hue. Sea grass "refers to various flowering plants that grow in coastal waters. The leaves are narrow and long with a grass-like hue. This can range from deep beige to greenish beige. Willow "is made from certain types of twigs and branches that are soaked to be flexible enough to weave into wicker furniture pieces. Willow often has a brownish tone. Banana leaf "is a type of fibrous leaf that is dried to make into a rope to weave over a frame to create unusual wicker furnishings. Often banana leaf has a yellowish hue and is known for its durability. Basic Wicker Colors for Every Home Beyond the natural hues of wicker, there are basic colors used to create the majority of pre-made wicker furniture. When you go shopping for wicker furniture, you often find colors such as white, black or reddish-brown. Consider how they fit into your indoor or outdoor decorating scheme. White wicker "is painted in shades of bright white, antique white and ivory. Often white wicker is used near the poolside or on outdoor decks. White wicker chaise lounges are always a luxurious addition to any outdoor space. White wicker frequently appears in a bedroom setting ranging from white wicker headboards to white wicker bassinets for babies. It also works well outdoors when you live in a rainy climate because it takes longer to show signs of wear. Black wicker can be used both indoors and outdoors. A black wicker sectional sofa is dramatic wherever you display it. Use plush cushions and pillows to add a dash of color. Reddish-brown wicker "has a classic and almost colonial feel. Often reddish-brown wicker is used with other stately pieces for a timeless appeal. It gives your indoor and outdoor spaces an earthy feeling. Other popular choices with a neutral vibe include olive green and dark brown. Neutral tones look great with a splash of deep color such as burgundy cushions or gold throw pillows. Wicker Furniture Painted to Perfection While wicker furniture looks fabulous in natural and classic colors, it is also fantastic in bright or pastel hues. For example, light blue wicker furniture adds a nautical touch to your home. Add cushions in colors such as beige, yellow and navy blue. Pink wicker furniture is fun-loving and brings a tropical feel to your outdoor living spaces. Toss out a few cream-colored cushions and display some plastic flamingos in your garden. Bright green wicker furniture is eye-catching yet fits perfectly into a Zen garden with a fountain. Certain wicker furniture is available in bright or pastel colors without doing any additional work. Other people decide to paint their current wicker furniture to fit into their new decorating scheme. Painting Wicker Furniture One of the benefits of wicker furniture is the ability to paint it. Most types of wicker are easy to paint yourself. When you want to change the look of your furniture, you can simply paint it another color. This also helps to extend the life of your favorite wicker pieces. If they start to look worn, just

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paint them to make them look brand new. Lay down a drop cloth before you start to paint. Clean the wicker furniture with a cloth and soapy water then let it dry completely. Use spray paint with sweeping motions to paint the wicker furniture. Let it dry for a few hours before using it again. You can also stain wicker furniture for a whole new look. The versatility and beauty of wicker is one of the major reasons people decide to buy it.

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