COLOUR
SPLASH

BE BOLD AND INCLUDE SOME COLOUR. IT HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BRIGHTEN UP A ROOM AND ADD CHARACTER TO A SPACE. ROBYN HAWKE FROM INSPIRED SPACES HAS SOME USEFUL TIPS ON THE BEST WAYS TO INCORPORATE COLOUR IN YOUR HOME.

Bedroom designed by Robyn Hawke, from Inspired Spaces.
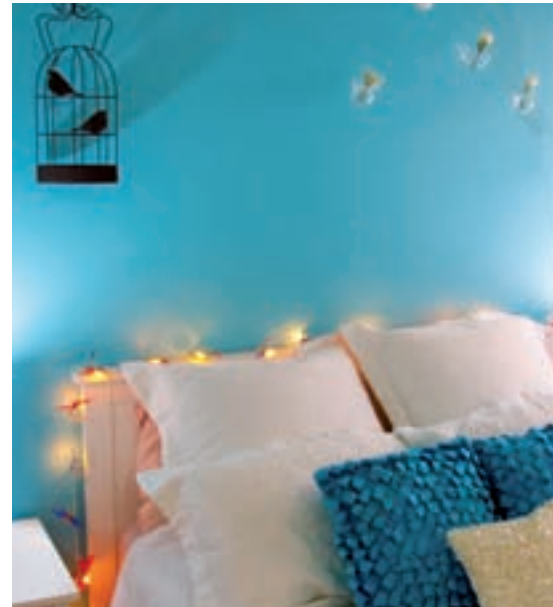
It is refreshing to see bright colours in this season's palette after the abundance of beige and grey in homes recently. After years of being 'safe' how do you embrace this breath of fresh air into your space without making it look like a confusing mass of colours? Bright colours add life and energy to a space. To use them successfully, follow these easy tips.

1 The balance and proportion of colour used is vital. Have one dominant colour with others complementing it. For example, this year's colour of tangerine orange can be paired with next year's indigo, but not in equal proportions – they both compete for your attention! Use about 60 per cent of one colour and use the second as an accent with white for a crisper feel.

2 Paint internal doors with detail in a bright colour rather than walls.

3 Display brightly coloured shoes in the bedroom; make them both a fashion statement and a unique decorating item.

4 Think carefully about where you place the bright colour as it will become a focal point – don't highlight an architectural fault!

5 Take the amount of light in a room into consideration. If it is very bright you may need to select a colour with an undertone so doesn't look washed out.

6 If walls are bright, select more muted furnishings and accessories to prevent a 'carnivale' feel.

7 Introduce visitors to a bright, cheerful colour in the foyer. Wrap it around two walls or use stripes and then accentuate this

colour throughout the rest of the home in cushions, throws, artwork, rugs, feature chairs and other decorating items.

8 Small rooms, such as a bathroom or sunroom, can cope with all walls in a bright colour. Large rooms are best kept to feature walls as the energy of these colours will overwhelm the senses.

9 In kids' rooms, combine a bright colour with white furniture to create a fresh and inviting look.

10 Use nature as inspiration for combining bright colours and you won't go wrong.

To find out more about Inspired Spaces, visit www.inspiredspaces.com.au.