

DARE  
No.

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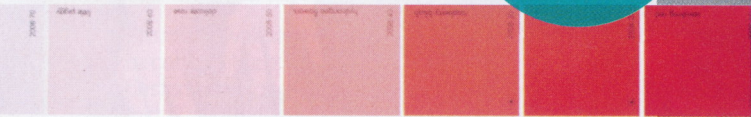
# OMBRE YOUR DESK & STAIRS

For a graduated effect like the banister on the left, color pro Eve Ashcraft says to consult a paint-color wheel. "Find a section that appeals to you and keep to that order, which will make the shift feel natural," she says. DIY aficionado Natalie Cox of Nattybydesign.com applied similar logic when working with tonal shades in her pink desk below. "Selecting tints from the same swatch card ensures a compatible undertone," says Cox.



### REFINISHING 101

Sand, prime, paint, and seal with fast-drying polyurethane.



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# COOK UP A BRIGHT COUNTER

Time to rethink the typical kitchen upgrade: Who says stainless steel or black granite are your only choices? Replace your island's countertop with a colorful slab, and you'll see food and dishware in a whole new light. "This magenta is majestic. It gives you a lot of energy," says German designer Sarah Maier of the surface she used. These vivid Silestone options work especially well in otherwise neutral spaces.



Stronger than marble and granite, Silestone is a nonporous and scratch-resistant quartz-based engineered stone that's available in electrifying shades you can't find in natural materials. Silestone USA, \$44-\$99/square foot; [silestoneusa.com](http://silestoneusa.com) for retailers.

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