


The 216 Browser Safe Colours

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The 216 "Safe" Browser Colours

Although most computer monitors are capable of displaying millions of colours, WinTel and Apple machines use different chips - and they display colours differently too. In fact, there are only 216 colours that are **common** between the two platforms. As a result - if you want to be 100% certain that your web page looks just as good to everybody who might see it regardless of the machine they use - you need to stick to this very limited 216-colour palette.

What happens if you don't? Well, you might think your page looks just peachy - but wait until you see it on a different platform! You could be in for an unpleasant surprise. Because if you stray outside these "safe" colours, a browser will automatically dither whatever colour you've chosen to the nearest "safe" match it can find. And very often, the results are disastrous!

That's why we've prepared this Safe Colour Chart for you. The first line in each cell shows the **hexadecimal value** (which you should use when you specify the colour in a table cell or page background) and the remaining three sets of numbers show the corresponding **Red, Green and Blue values** (which is probably what your favourite paint program will show you, if you need to convert between RGB and Hex valuesand you probably will quite a lot).

This chart can save you a **lot** of time and mistakes (and a lot of tedious RGB/Hex conversions), so we've made it available for you to clip and download as an **Adobe Acrobat PDF file**. You'll need to have Acrobat Reader installed on your PC or Mac to view it - but you can obtain that free from [Adobe](#) (installation is a snap, BTW)

PS: Don't be surprised if some cells in our chart appear to be the same colour. While we were preparing it we took the opportunity to test it out on several different monitors and **not one** of them showed 216 unique shades. What does this mean? Well, three things really:

- Many monitors and/or video cards on the market today don't render colours very well (**hint:** use this chart the next time you buy a monitor or a video card to see how good it really is!)
- If you want to be **absolutely sure** that your pages will look uniformly good to the majority of viewers, try to keep to "**mid-range**" colours rather than some of the more extreme shades. A deep, rich chocolate brown on your monitor may

shades. A deep, rich chocolate brown on your monitor may look like jet black to someone else - and that's unfortunate if you've pinned a lot on having that colour faithfully rendered

- If you want to be sure your pages are legible, go for **high contrast** rather than limited differences (eg: dark text on a dark background). Someone with a dim or poor-quality monitor may find your low contrast pages illegible.

YOUR BROWSER-SAFE COLOUR PALETTE

FFFFFF R: 255 G: 255 B: 255	FFFCC R: 255 G: 255 B: 204	FFF99 R: 255 G: 255 B: 153	FFF66 R: 255 G: 255 B: 102	FFF33 R: 255 G: 255 B: 051	FFF00 R: 255 G: 255 B: 000
CCFFFF R: 204 G: 255 B: 255	CCFFCC R: 204 G: 255 B: 204	CCFF99 R: 204 G: 255 B: 153	CCFF66 R: 204 G: 255 B: 102	CCFF33 R: 204 G: 255 B: 051	CCFF00 R: 204 G: 255 B: 000
99FFFF R: 153 G: 255 B: 255	99FFCC R: 153 G: 255 B: 204	99FF99 R: 153 G: 255 B: 153	99FF66 R: 153 G: 255 B: 102	99FF33 R: 153 G: 255 B: 051	99FF00 R: 153 G: 255 B: 000
66FFFF R: 102 G: 255 B: 255	66FFCC R: 102 G: 255 B: 204	66FF99 R: 102 G: 255 B: 153	66FF66 R: 102 G: 255 B: 102	66FF33 R: 102 G: 255 B: 051	66FF00 R: 102 G: 255 B: 000
33FFFF R: 051 G: 255 B: 255	33FFCC R: 051 G: 255 B: 204	33FF99 R: 051 G: 255 B: 153	33FF66 R: 051 G: 255 B: 102	33FF33 R: 051 G: 255 B: 051	33FF00 R: 051 G: 255 B: 000
00FFFF R: 000 G: 255 B: 255	00FFCC R: 000 G: 255 B: 204	00FF99 R: 000 G: 255 B: 153	00FF66 R: 000 G: 255 B: 102	00FF33 R: 000 G: 255 B: 051	00FF00 R: 000 G: 255 B: 000
FFCCFF R: 255 G: 204 B: 255	FFCCCC R: 255 G: 204 B: 204	FFCC99 R: 255 G: 204 B: 153	FFCC66 R: 255 G: 204 B: 102	FFCC33 R: 255 G: 204 B: 051	FFCC00 R: 255 G: 204 B: 000
CCCCFF R: 204 G: 204 B: 255	CCCCCC R: 204 G: 204 B: 204	CCCC99 R: 204 G: 204 B: 153	CCCC66 R: 204 G: 204 B: 102	CCCC33 R: 204 G: 204 B: 051	CCCC00 R: 204 G: 204 B: 000
99CCFF R: 153 G: 204	99CCCC R: 153 G: 204	99CC99 R: 153 G: 204	99CC66 R: 153 G: 204	99CC33 R: 153 G: 204	99CC00 R: 153 G: 204


B: 255	B: 204	B: 153	B: 102	B: 051	B: 000
66CCFF R: 102 G: 204 B: 255	66CCCC R: 102 G: 204 B: 204	66CC99 R: 102 G: 204 B: 153	66CC66 R: 102 G: 204 B: 102	66CC33 R: 102 G: 204 B: 051	66CC00 R: 102 G: 204 B: 000
33CCFF R: 051 G: 204 B: 255	33CCCC R: 051 G: 204 B: 204	33CC99 R: 051 G: 204 B: 153	33CC66 R: 051 G: 204 B: 102	33CC33 R: 051 G: 204 B: 051	33CC00 R: 051 G: 204 B: 000
00CCFF R: 000 G: 204 B: 255	00CCCC R: 000 G: 204 B: 204	00CC99 R: 000 G: 204 B: 153	00CC66 R: 000 G: 204 B: 102	00CC33 R: 000 G: 204 B: 051	00CC00 R: 000 G: 204 B: 000
FF99FF R: 255 G: 153 B: 255	FF99CC R: 255 G: 153 B: 204	FF9999 R: 255 G: 153 B: 153	FF9966 R: 255 G: 153 B: 102	FF9933 R: 255 G: 153 B: 051	FF9900 R: 255 G: 153 B: 000
CC99FF R: 204 G: 153 B: 255	CC99CC R: 204 G: 153 B: 204	CC9999 R: 204 G: 153 B: 153	CC9966 R: 204 G: 153 B: 102	CC9933 R: 204 G: 153 B: 051	CC9900 R: 204 G: 153 B: 000
99FFFF R: 153 G: 153 B: 255	9999CC R: 153 G: 153 B: 204	999999 R: 153 G: 153 B: 153	999966 R: 153 G: 153 B: 102	999933 R: 153 G: 153 B: 051	999900 R: 153 G: 153 B: 000
6699FF R: 102 G: 153 B: 255	6699CC R: 102 G: 153 B: 204	669999 R: 102 G: 153 B: 153	669966 R: 102 G: 153 B: 102	669933 R: 102 G: 153 B: 051	669900 R: 102 G: 153 B: 000
3399FF R: 051 G: 153 B: 255	3399CC R: 051 G: 153 B: 204	339999 R: 051 G: 153 B: 153	339966 R: 051 G: 153 B: 102	339933 R: 051 G: 153 B: 051	339900 R: 051 G: 153 B: 000
0099FF R: 000 G: 153 B: 255	0099CC R: 000 G: 153 B: 204	009999 R: 000 G: 153 B: 153	009966 R: 000 G: 153 B: 102	009933 R: 000 G: 153 B: 051	009900 R: 000 G: 153 B: 000
FF66FF R: 255 G: 102 B: 255	FF66CC R: 255 G: 102 B: 204	FF6699 R: 255 G: 102 B: 153	FF6666 R: 255 G: 102 B: 102	FF6633 R: 255 G: 102 B: 051	FF6600 R: 255 G: 102 B: 000
CC66FF R: 204 G: 102 B: 255	CC66CC R: 204 G: 102 B: 204	CC6699 R: 204 G: 102 B: 153	CC6666 R: 204 G: 102 B: 102	CC6633 R: 204 G: 102 B: 051	CC6600 R: 204 G: 102 B: 000

9966FF R: 153 G: 102 B: 255	9966CC R: 153 G: 102 B: 204	996699 R: 153 G: 102 B: 153	996666 R: 153 G: 102 B: 102	996633 R: 153 G: 102 B: 051	996600 R: 153 G: 102 B: 000
6666FF R: 102 G: 102 B: 255	6666CC R: 102 G: 102 B: 204	666699 R: 102 G: 102 B: 153	666666 R: 102 G: 102 B: 102	666633 R: 102 G: 102 B: 051	666600 R: 102 G: 102 B: 000
3366FF R: 051 G: 102 B: 255	3366CC R: 051 G: 102 B: 204	336699 R: 051 G: 102 B: 153	336666 R: 051 G: 102 B: 102	336633 R: 051 G: 102 B: 051	336600 R: 051 G: 102 B: 000
0066FF R: 000 G: 102 B: 255	0066CC R: 000 G: 102 B: 204	006699 R: 000 G: 102 B: 153	006666 R: 000 G: 102 B: 102	006633 R: 000 G: 102 B: 051	006600 R: 000 G: 102 B: 000
FF33FF R: 255 G: 051 B: 255	FF33CC R: 255 G: 051 B: 204	FF3399 R: 255 G: 051 B: 153	FF3366 R: 255 G: 051 B: 102	FF3333 R: 255 G: 051 B: 051	FF3300 R: 255 G: 051 B: 000
CC33FF R: 204 G: 051 B: 255	CC33CC R: 204 G: 051 B: 204	CC3399 R: 204 G: 051 B: 153	CC3366 R: 204 G: 051 B: 102	CC3333 R: 204 G: 051 B: 051	CC3300 R: 204 G: 051 B: 000
9933FF R: 153 G: 051 B: 255	9933CC R: 153 G: 051 B: 204	993399 R: 153 G: 051 B: 153	993366 R: 153 G: 051 B: 102	993333 R: 153 G: 051 B: 051	993300 R: 153 G: 051 B: 000
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3333FF R: 051 G: 051 B: 255	3333CC R: 051 G: 051 B: 204	333399 R: 051 G: 051 B: 153	333366 R: 051 G: 051 B: 102	333333 R: 051 G: 051 B: 051	333300 R: 051 G: 051 B: 000
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CC00FF R: 204 G: 000 B: 255	CC00CC R: 204 G: 000 B: 204	CC0099 R: 204 G: 000 B: 153	CC0066 R: 204 G: 000 B: 102	CC0033 R: 204 G: 000 B: 051	CC0000 R: 204 G: 000 B: 000
9900FF R: 153 G: 000 B: 255	9900CC R: 153 G: 000 B: 204	990099 R: 153 G: 000 B: 153	990066 R: 153 G: 000 B: 102	990033 R: 153 G: 000 B: 051	990000 R: 153 G: 000 B: 000
6600FF R: 102 G: 000 B: 255	6600CC R: 102 G: 000 B: 204	660099 R: 102 G: 000 B: 153	660066 R: 102 G: 000 B: 102	660033 R: 102 G: 000 B: 051	660000 R: 102 G: 000 B: 000
3300FF R: 051 G: 000 B: 255	3300CC R: 051 G: 000 B: 204	330099 R: 051 G: 000 B: 153	330066 R: 051 G: 000 B: 102	330033 R: 051 G: 000 B: 051	330000 R: 051 G: 000 B: 000
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