True Black in a dark and moody room

True Black, a DuraSeal stain, is very dark on red oak, with almost no undertone (measured from its own picture: LRV 3). Here it's shown with Coventry Gray walls, Chantilly Lace trim, and Sea Salt on the cabinets, chosen by the numbers.









THE PALETTE

THE FLOOR	WALLS	TRIM	CABINETS	WOOD
True Black LRV 3	**Coventry Gray** Benjamin Moore HC-169 LRV 48.2	**Chantilly Lace** Benjamin Moore OC-65 LRV 90	**Sea Salt** Sherwin-Williams SW 6204 LRV 63.2	**A mid brown wood** Like our Special Walnut stain sample

DuraSeal

True Black

DuraSeal stain on red oak

Stain · on red oak · 2-1/4 in strip

The stain, its price and samples: **powellflooring.com/sherwin-williams-minwax-duraseal-stain-colors/true-black**

AI assisted. The rooms are CutPile Photoreal Renderings: AI generated, simulated photos. The floor, the paint colors and every number are real.

WALLS, TRIM AND CABINETS

WALLS
Coventry Gray
Benjamin Moore HC-169 · LRV 48.2 · +45 from the floor
A clean neutral (chroma 2.3) that keeps True Black crisp and gray.

OR WALLS
Clary Sage
Sherwin-Williams SW 6178 · LRV 41 · +38 from the floor
A soft, cool leaning color (hue 111°) that keeps True Black crisp and gray.

TRIM AND CEILINGS
Chantilly Lace
Benjamin Moore OC-65 · LRV 90 · +87 from the floor
87 points over True Black in LRV, a clean white (chroma 2.7) that keeps True Black crisp.

CABINETS
Sea Salt
Sherwin-Williams SW 6204 · LRV 63.2 · +60 from the floor
A light color with some life in it, so cabinets float off True Black (a 60 point step in LRV).

Cabinets in Sea Salt or Chantilly Lace: a dark floor needs light cabinets to float above it.

THE FLOOR, MEASURED

LRV	LIGHTNESS L*	UNDERTONE	HUE
3	21	Gray	307°

A near gray, with almost no warmth. LRV is light reflectance value: 0 is black, 100 is white. A wall within 30 points of the floor blurs into it (BS 8300).

WOOD, RUGS AND METALS

A step lighter: a mid brown wood
About 16 points lighter than True Black in L* (37 against 21). Like our Special Walnut stain sample.

Tone on tone: pewter
1 in chroma, half the warmth of True Black (2), and 28 points lighter in L*.

Across the wheel: smoke
Hue 127°, straight across the color wheel from the 307° of True Black, softened to balance it.

Grounding: stone gray
A light note at L* 66, 45 points from the 21 of True Black, so a rug keeps its edge.

Aged brass
A warm metal that agrees with the warm pieces in the room.

Polished nickel
A bright nickel with a touch of warmth, for the gray undertone of True Black (chroma 2.1).

Chrome
The brightest and coolest finish, crisp against True Black at chroma 2.1.

ROOM BY ROOM

- **Living room** Coventry Gray walls and Chantilly Lace trim over the True Black floor, velvet in pewter with a smoke pillow, aged brass lamps on low.
- **Kitchen** Cabinets in Sea Salt so they float off the True Black floor, Chantilly Lace walls and trim, polished nickel pulls.
- **Bedroom** Clary Sage walls, pewter bedding, nightstands in a mid brown wood, chrome on the lamps.
- **Entry** A stone gray runner on the True Black floor, Sea Salt on the door, a polished nickel mirror.

WHAT TO AVOID

- Walls at the lightness of True Black: Caviar (Sherwin-Williams SW 6990, LRV 3) sits within a point of its LRV of 3, so wall and floor would blur into one.
- Whites that lean yellow: beside True Black, a near gray, they look dingy.

THE ROOM IT SUITS

At LRV 3, True Black is very dark: it is at its best in a big room with good light and warm lamps, and it shows dust, pet hair and fine scratches more than a mid tone.

At 2.25 inches a board, True Black lays about 64 boards across a 12 foot room, the busy, tailored look of a classic strip floor.

A sand and finish of red oak strip floors in any room above grade.

Hardness: Northern red oak: Janka 1,290 lbf

Finish: Stain on site, then clear coats

SCAN TO OPEN THIS BOARD ON YOUR PHONE

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