



White Dove paint, £26, [benjaminmoorepaint.co.uk](http://benjaminmoorepaint.co.uk)

# MAKE AN ENTRANCE

*It's a puzzle, but often the hallway is the last room in the house to be considered when decorating – yet it's the first space visitors will see. Cheshire interior designer Kerrie Griffin-Rogers offers her top tips for a room that has to do it all*

**H**allways have to be functional – somewhere to hang coats, take off shoes, stack the post, drop the car keys – but also somewhere that offers an immediate warm welcome, delivering that immediate hit of ‘home’ that soothes the moment you arrive. Get it wrong and it can be a war zone, get it right and it sets the mood for the rest of the house.

## Walls

Colour choice is important. If the space is filled with natural light, light and bright colours work best. In narrow hallways, or those with little natural light, consider a rich, dark colour, such as Farrow & Ball Stiffkey Blue, or Basalt from Little Greene.

## Lighting

Lighting needs to create ambience. Have your table lamps on timers and, if possible, wall lights rather than an overhead lamp. If you really want to go for it, have these on sensors, to leave the walls clear of unsightly switches.

## Furniture

Functional is vital. If you don't have a coat cupboard, choose a smart set of coat hooks and be very firm with the family – one coat per person and the rest go elsewhere. A console table is a lovely feature, but there is always a risk it becomes littered with hats, gloves and other seasonal accessories. If that's likely, find a cabinet with drawers you can allocate to each family member. A chair is a marvellous addition – somewhere to sit to slip off wet shoes or high heels. Make it a special one, something a bit ‘statement’ – but make sure the family don't leave their aforementioned shoes littering the floor.

## Accessories

Choose a piece of art you will love forever to hang above your cabinet, and two oversized statement lamps to stand on each end. I have a fabulous Neom Happiness reed diffuser that really lifts the ambience.

A mirror is always a good idea, too, for those last-minute checks. I love a gallery wall travelling up the staircase – a mix of art and photos looks great, especially if you get into the habit of swapping in new ones as the year progresses. Thinking practically, a pretty bowl in which to toss keys will create a habit and should prevent early morning lost keys panics, while limiting the spread of clutter. Greenery is a must, faux is fine but preferably real, for that comforting feeling of life.

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Medium Flagon table lamp with burnt umber shade, £75, loaf.com



The Imelda occasional chair, £399, audenza.com



Happiness reed diffuser, \$38, neomorganics.com



Les Courbes Jaune poster, from £6.71, desenio.com



Boston Fern, £12, leafenvy.co.uk

Navigare Archie wall light, £81.12, lighting-style.co.uk



Organic cotton Faces rug £89.99, cielshopinteriors.com