



Building Color Code of Bhutan 2014

Department of Human Settlement

Ministry of Works and Human Settlement

Thimphu

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Table of content

Sl. No.	Content	Page No.
	Foreword	i
1.	Guidelines for using colors in Bhutan	1
2.	Definitions	2
3.	Building color specifications	3-26

Foreword

Traditionally colors played an important role in giving built-forms a distinct character highlighting not only their functions but also providing a strong base for showcasing Bhutanese traditional paintings. They were simple; harmonious with the natural surroundings; and their use often marked important annual occasion of a family and house. It was also environmentally friendly. Today with an access to varieties of paints in the market, the cultural aspect of building colors is becoming irrelevant. The Bhutanese landscape is losing their natural charm to the contrasting display of disharmonious building colors. The Bhutanese traditional architecture is also losing its identity and essence.

It was taking into account this aspect of development that the Government initiated the specification of four building colors and prepared the Building Color Code of Bhutan 2014 after several rounds of consultations with the Dzongkhags and Thromdes. The Building Color Code of Bhutan 2014 has guidelines on using building colors and specifies four color pallets each for respective Dzongkhags and Thromdes.

The objective of the Building Color Code of Bhutan 2014 is to enhance Bhutanese architecture, landscape and aesthetics of the settlements; and, to preserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the country. It is hoped that the building color code is implemented with due diligence so that we not only upheld the provisions on cultural heritage in the Constitution of Bhutan but also realize the goals of Gross National Happiness.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dorji Choden', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(Dorji Choden)

Zhabtog Lyonpo

1. Guidelines for using Colors in Buildings

- a) The color code is for the exterior walls of buildings.
- b) The appearance of an exposed stone masonry has been specified as one of the colors.
- c) The colors namely White, Mud color, exposed stone masonry are Bhutanese traditional colors. Any color apart from these shall not be used in the buildings located close to public buildings; historically significant structures; and on the prominently visible locations.
- d) A neighborhood or precinct can have one color in all the buildings or variation of four colors as decided by the local authority or as per the development control regulations.
- e) A building shall not have more than two colors. However if the building design requires use of more than two colors, it will be permitted upon the review and approval by the competent authority.
- f) The building color code does not apply to the Bhutanese Traditional paintings on walls, rabseys, windows and doors. The traditional painting shall be as per the specifications of the traditional paintings.

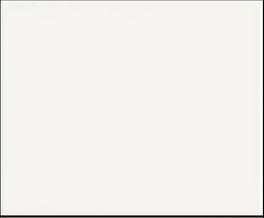
2. Definitions

Unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

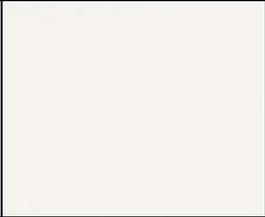
- a) **Competent authority** means the Department of Human Settlement, Ministry of Works and Human Settlement.
- b) **Historically significant structures** means those structures listed in the national register of historic places or otherwise designated, by official action, as historic and worthy of recognition or protection.
- c) **Local authority** means a Dzongkhag Administration or Dzogkhag Thromde.
- d) **Prominently visible location** means location of the existing and proposed structures which is prominently visible and has potential to contrast with the aesthetic of a settlement or historically significant structures or Public buildings.
- e) **Public building/structure** means any physical erection on land for public use which has architectural and cultural values or historical significance.

3. Building Color Specification

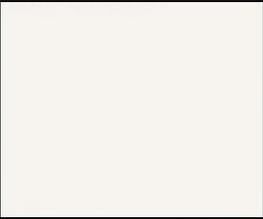
i. Gelephu Thromde

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud color	
3	Grey	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

ii. Phuntsholing Thromde

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	
3	Cream color	
4	Light Brown	

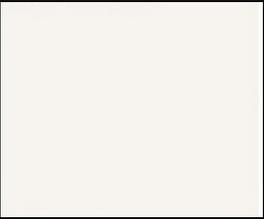
iii. Samdrup Jongkhar Thromde

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Sandal wood color	
3	Pale yellow cream color	
4	Sand color	

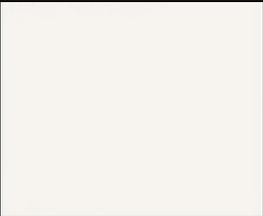
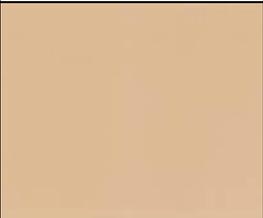
iv. Thimphu Thromde

Sl. No.	Specification	Sample
1	White	
2	Mud color	
3	Light Brown	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

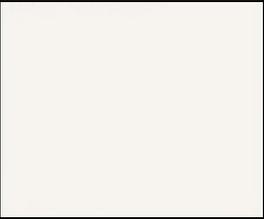
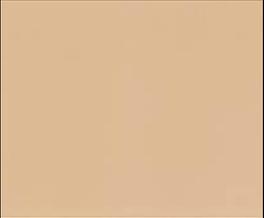
v. Bumthang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud color	
3	Light Brown	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

vi. Chukha Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud color	
3	Grey	
4	Light yellow	

vii. Dagana Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Light yellow	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

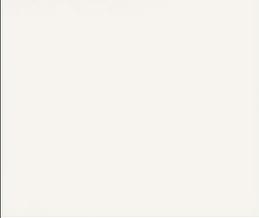
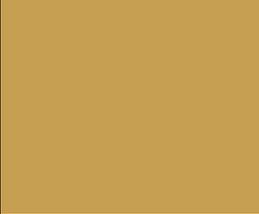
viii. Gasa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

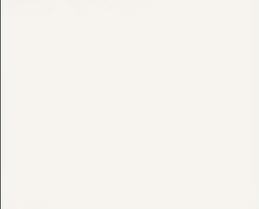
ix. Haa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Light brown	
3	Mud color	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

x. Lhuntse Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Dark yellow	
3	Mud color	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

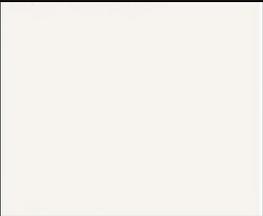
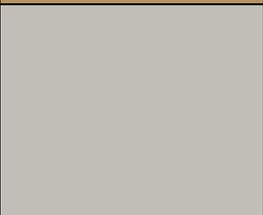
xi. Mongar Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Light Brown	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

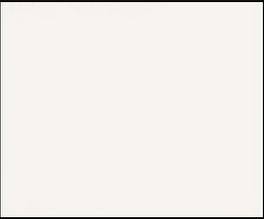
xii. Paro Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Light brown	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

xiii. Pema Gatshel Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Light Brown	
3	Grey	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

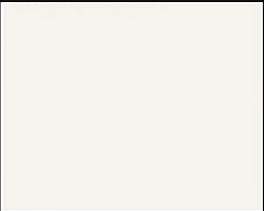
xiv. Punakha Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Light Brown	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

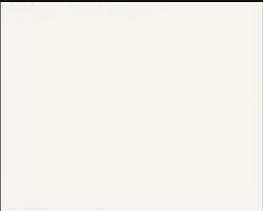
xv. Samdrup Jongkhar Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Cream color	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

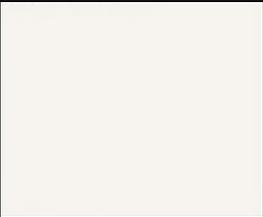
xvi. Samtse Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Grey	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

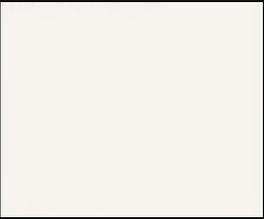
xvii. Sarpang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Grey	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

xviii. Thimphu Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Light Brown	
4	Cream Color	

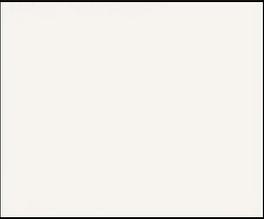
xix. Trashigang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Cream Color	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

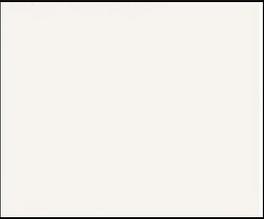
xx. Trashi Yangtse Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Cream color	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

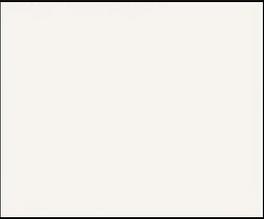
xxi. Trongsa Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Grey	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

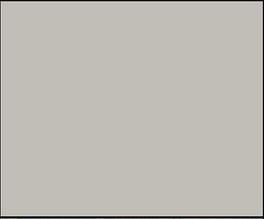
xxii. Tsirang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Cream color	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

xxiii. Wangdue Phodrang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Pale cream color	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	

xxiv. Zhemgang Dzongkhag

Sl. No.	Specification	Color
1	White	
2	Mud Color	
3	Grey	
4	Exposed Stone Masonry with its natural color depending on the stone and masonry type without any plaster	