

Disclaimer: NOTE TO STUDENTS: This information is not "authoritative" - I am not an expert on this topic. This page was created first for my students to give them an awareness of symbolism of colors in different cultures. Some of the listings come from Pagan/Witchcraft sites which would not be acceptable for my students to view from school (sites would be blocked now by filtering software) - so I copied the lists (without permission). If you are doing research - look for sources that have been researched and can be verified. ~Judy Decker -Mrs. Green

## **Color Symbolism:**

Color is considered one of the most useful and powerful design tools you have. People respond to different colors in different ways, and these responses take place on a subconscious, emotional level. In our American culture, black has long been associated with death, while white is believed to signify life and purity. In the Orient, however, white is the traditional color of mourning. In the United States, black has also come to suggest sophistication and formality. Americans generally associate trust and stability with the color blue, while Koreans have this reaction to pink and other pastel colors.

### **In the Western Culture:**

Green has taken on a very strong connotation as the color representing ecology and concern for the environment, however, it also conveys meanings associated with money and the suggestion "to go ahead" which is obviously derived from traffic lights.

Yellow, Brown, Orange, Green = Nature, earthiness, warmth

Colors represent holidays and seasons of the year.

Red and Green represent Christmas.

### **White Mountain Apaches**

**Four sacred colors of the White Mountain Apaches in east central Arizona contrast interestingly with the Cherokee colors:**

**Green is south**

### **Medicine Wheel color symbolism:**

SOUTH- red or green-passion, heart, warmth-emotions-porcupine

**Native American Color Symbolism** (varies by ethnic group - this source was not "authoritative")

Green (Will): Living willfully

### **Asian Color Symbolism**

Green: Eternity, family, harmony, health, peace, posterity

**Astrological Color Associations** (this source was not "authoritative")

(SIGN--COLOR)

Cancer -- Bright Green

### **Color Therapy - Color and the Brain**

Specific colors have different effects (list copied from [Biopulse.org](http://Biopulse.org))

Green: soothing, relaxing mentally as well as physically, helps those suffering from depression,

Green with envy.

Love is evergreen.

“It’s not easy being green.”

Green is everywhere. It’s the most common color in the natural world, and it’s second only to blue as the most common favorite color. It’s the color we associate with money, the environment, and aliens, and it’s the color of revitalization and rebirth.

### **Physical Effects**

What happens to your body in the presence of green? Your pituitary gland is stimulated. Your muscles are more relaxed, and your blood histamine levels increase, which leads to a decrease in allergy symptoms and dilated blood vessels, aiding in smoother muscle contractions. In short, green is calming, stress-relieving, and – a bit paradoxically – invigorating. It’s been shown to improve reading ability and creativity.

### **Symbolism**

Green stands for balance, nature, spring, and rebirth. It’s the symbol of prosperity, freshness, and progress. The Green Party in the US is inextricably tied to ecological and progressive causes, and a “greenback” is another term for our paper currency. In Japanese culture, green is associated with eternal life, and it is the sacred color of Islam, representing respect and the prophet Muhammad.

### **Positive Associations**

We associate green with vitality, fresh growth, and wealth. We generally think of it as a balanced, healthy, and youthful. We use green in design for spaces intended to foster creativity and productivity, and we associate green with progress – think about giving a project the “green light.”

### **Negative Associations**

What’s fascinating is that as positive as most of our associations with green are, it carries particular potent negative connotations as well. Someone who feels sick might look “green around the gills,” and certain yellow-gray greens have a distinctly unpleasant, institutional feel to them. We link green with envy and with greed, and even the Mr. Yuck sticker intended to warn children away from potentially hazardous chemicals is a bright, eye-catching green.



### **Color Morsels**

- In the 1860s, the US government printed new currency. One side of the bills were printed with green ink to prevent counterfeiting since cameras of the day could only take black and white photographs. Paper currency has henceforth been called “greenbacks.” In 1929, when the government regularized the size and denomination of its currency, green ink was chosen because it was both plentiful and durable.
- The precious gemstone emerald is a member of the beryl family, and what makes a beryl an emerald is the presence of chromium – the source of the brilliant green hue.

## Green Is The Color Of The Heart Chakra



Green is the color of the Heart Chakra, also known as Anahata. This chakra is located at the center of the chest area and is linked to the heart, lungs, circulatory system, cardiac plexus, and the complete chest area. The Heart Chakra bridges the gap between the physical and spiritual worlds. Opening the Heart Chakra allows a person to love more, empathize, and feel compassion.

Gemstones that will aid the Heart Chakra include jade and malachite.

## The Meaning Of The Color Green Around The World

Green is used worldwide to represent safety. In several religions, green is the color associated with resurrection and regeneration.

- In Ghardaia and other parts of M'zab, houses painted in green indicate that the inhabitants have made a pilgrimage to Mecca.
- Green, blue-green, and blue are sacred colors in Iran, where they symbolize paradise.
- As the emblematic color of Ireland, green represents the vast green hillsides, as well as Ireland's patron saint, St. Patrick.
- In Japan, green is regarded as the color of eternal life.
- In Aztec culture, green was considered to be royal because it was the color of the quetzal plumes used by the Aztec chieftains.
- The solid green flag of Libya is currently the only national flag of a single color.
- In China, jade stones represent virtue and beauty.
- In Portugal, green is the color of hope because of its associations with spring.
- In the highlands of Scotland, people used to wear green as a mark of honor.
- There is a superstition that sewing with green thread on the eve of a fashion show brings bad luck to the design house.

## Religious & Mythological Associations With The Color Green

- In several religions, green is the color associated with resurrection and regeneration.
- Green is the color of love associated with both Venus, the Roman goddess and Aphrodite, the Greek goddess.
- The prophet Mohammed wore a green cloak and turban.
- The God of fertility in Celtic myths was associated with green.
- Green is the color associated with Sunday in the Catholic church and the altar cloth is usually green for Sunday services.

- Green is the color that represents Irish-Catholics, while orange represents Irish-Protestants.

### Political Associations Of The Color Green

- Ecological supporters adopted green as the color to represent their movement.  
Interesting Information About The Color Green
- Green was the favorite color of George Washington, the first President of the United States.
- The color green signifies mystical or magical properties in the stories of King Arthur.
- Green is one color that means “low” or “guarded” in the color-coded threat system established by presidential order in March 2002. This system quickly informs law enforcement agencies when intelligence indicates a change in the terrorist threat facing the United States.
- Green is the color used for night-vision goggles because the human eye is most sensitive to and able to discern the most shades of that color.
- Bright green is the color of the astrological sign “Cancer.”
- Green ribbons have been used by a range of environmental groups to symbolize organ donation and transplant, awareness of Bipolar Disorder, solidarity with Chechnya, and support of farmers in America.

### What It Says About You When You Buy A Green Vehicle

There is no question that the vehicle you drive is an extension of your personality — an unspoken, but clear message to the rest of the world.

- The message you send by driving a vehicle that is Dark Green: Traditional, trustworthy, well-balanced.
- If, however, your vehicle is a Bright Yellow-Green, you give a different impression: Trendy, whimsical, lively.

Green is the color of nature. It symbolizes growth, harmony, and freshness. Green has strong emotional correspondence with safety. Dark green is also commonly associated with money.

Green has great healing power. It is the most restful color for the human eye; it can improve vision. Green suggests stability and endurance. Sometimes green denotes lack of experience; for example, a 'greenhorn' is a novice. In heraldry, green indicates growth and hope. Green, as opposed to red, means safety; it is the color of free passage in road traffic.

Use green to indicate safety when advertising drugs and medical products. Green is directly related to nature, so you can use it to promote 'green' products. Dull, darker green is commonly associated with money, the financial world, banking, and Wall Street.

**Dark green** is associated with ambition, greed, and jealousy.

**Yellow-green** can indicate sickness, cowardice, discord, and jealousy.

**Aqua** is associated with emotional healing and protection.

**Olive green** is the traditional color of peace.

MOOD:

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