

Media Release

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AkzoNobel's Colors of the Year 2026 get the Wood Finishes industry in the Groove!

AkzoNobel's Colors of the Year 2026 are set to bring the Rhythm of Blues™ to the wood finishes market, with a trio of upbeat and versatile colors that are calming, connecting and creative.

The **Colors of the Year 2026 Rhythm of Blues family** comprises three eye-catching indigo shades: a **light blue Mellow Flow™**, a **dark blue Slow Swing™** and the **vibrant Free Groove™** – three different rhythms that offer endless scope for furniture, cabinets, building products and flooring.



Credit: AkzoNobel Wood Coatings

The collection has been specially created to inspire furniture designers and joinery manufacturers. The choice of colors makes it easy to choose shades and combinations for a timeless look that is also on-trend.

“With everything that’s happening in the world, we see that people are reacting in various ways,” explains Heleen van Gent, Creative Director of AkzoNobel’s Global Aesthetic Center. “They’re either slowing down and recharging their batteries, wanting to feel in tune with others and celebrate kinship. Or they’re choosing to be bold, have fun and feel carefree.”

Rhythm of Blues is the result of extensive research into the color, design, cultural, economic and social trends that shape our society. The colors, textures and special effects that take center stage in the collection have been designed to **help designers and manufacturers find on-trend wood coatings** to differentiate their projects, while making it **easier for customers to choose colors and combinations** that match their design preferences.

“Our Rhythm of Blues family provides inspiration to create stylish color and finish combinations that reflect customer style preferences. They come with three palettes of harmonious colors. These

enable us to personalize our environments to fit the times we live in, while bringing calm, comfort and vibrancy to projects and products,” says Henri Bijsterbosch, Color Product Marketing Manager for AkzoNobel’s Industrial Coatings business.

AkzoNobel’s Global Aesthetic Center has been translating trends into desirable colors for more than 30 years. Its annual ColourFutures trend forecast meeting brings together in-house experts, international architects, designers and journalists to share insights into how our reactions to the world around us impact our color choices.

Specially crafted finishes are required for different end uses, as wood coatings are often applied to highlight the natural beauty of the wooden substrate. “We help customers combine the trend colors with natural wood finishes, be it on smooth or distressed surfaces, from matt to high gloss and from translucent to solid colors with variation of possible finish effects,” says Bijsterbosch. AkzoNobel’s highly trained technical service team works closely with the Global Color and Design and technical team to ensure finishes are robust and can be industrialized for customers around the world.

For more information about our Colors of the Year 2026, visit <https://www.akzonobel.com/en/about-us/initiatives/color-of-the-year-2026>.

You can also follow **#COTY26 #ABlueForYou! #BelieveInblue #RhythmOfBlues and #AkzoNobel #AkzoNobelWoodCoatings #Chemcraft** on social media.

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About AkzoNobel

Since 1792, we’ve been supplying the innovative paints and coatings that help to color people’s lives and protect what matters most. Our world class portfolio of brands – including Dulux, International, Sikkens and Interpon – is trusted by customers around the globe. We’re active in more than 150 countries and use our expertise to sustain and enhance everyday life. Because we believe every surface is an opportunity. It’s what you’d expect from a pioneering and long-established paints company that’s dedicated to providing more sustainable solutions and preserving the best of what we have today – while creating an even better tomorrow. Let’s paint the future together.

For more information, please visit www.akzonobel.com.

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