

Background Colors

Changing background colors is very simple. You need two things:

- A command that alerts the browser (like Netscape or IE) that the color is going to be changed and...
- A color code

1. The command for changing any background item is found within the page's BODY tag. To change just the background color, enter this attribute:

<BODY BGCOLOR="#####">

2. Now you need a color code. This code will tell the browser what color to use. The 6-digit code will go in place of the "##### in the above command. The technical term for these little 6-digit codes is a Hex Code. The codes are not very user friendly and you need a chart to let you know what code makes what color. To view a chart showing some basic color codes go to:

<http://www.elginconnects.ca/tutorials/color.html> or

<http://clausius.engr.utk.edu/text/color.html>

If you don't find your color there, try the slider applet on this site:

http://dreamartists.com/modules.php?name=Hex_Color_Codes

There are actually over a thousand hex codes producing every imaginable shade of red, or yellow, or whatever.

Hopefully you have now chosen a color code (hex code) you'd like to use -- but if not, no matter -- I have one: "FFFFFF." That code will produce pure white. Using code "000000" will produce pure black.

Be sure to enclose it all inside of quotation marks! So now that you know the code of the background you wish to create, you simply insert the code into the command and place the attribute on the page inside the <BODY> tag. The code for a white background will look like this:

<BODY BGCOLOR="FFFFFF">

You can also use the text names for some of the more popular colors as well. i.e.:

<BODY BGCOLOR="red"> or <BODY BGCOLOR="black">

Background Wallpaper

The name is a bit misleading. When you see an HTML page with wallpaper or backgrounds, it is not one continuous .gif or .jpeg. It is one small .gif or .jpeg repeated again and again... and it is equally as simple as the colors above.

First you need a background. There are many places on the internet to download backgrounds. Try a Google search for "backgrounds" and you will come up with hundreds of options to choose from.

When you find one that you like, save it to your diskette so you can use it on your web site. Backgrounds must be in the form of ".jpg or .gif"

Again, all background attributes come inside the <BODY> tag. Like so:

<BODY BACKGROUND="image.gif">

All color commands are overridden by the BODY BACKGROUND command. That's mainly because the wallpaper goes over the color.

But... it will take a bit of time for the background .gif or .jpeg to load. It looks nice to put a color command before the BODY BACKGROUND command. What happens is that your page goes to a certain color and then the wallpaper wipes over that color. Nice effect.

Please note: The use of two commands, one for BGCOLOR and the other for BACKGROUND, does not work on upper level browsers. You'll need to put them both together in the same command. Something like this:

<BODY BGCOLOR="#FFFFFF" BACKGROUND="image.gif">