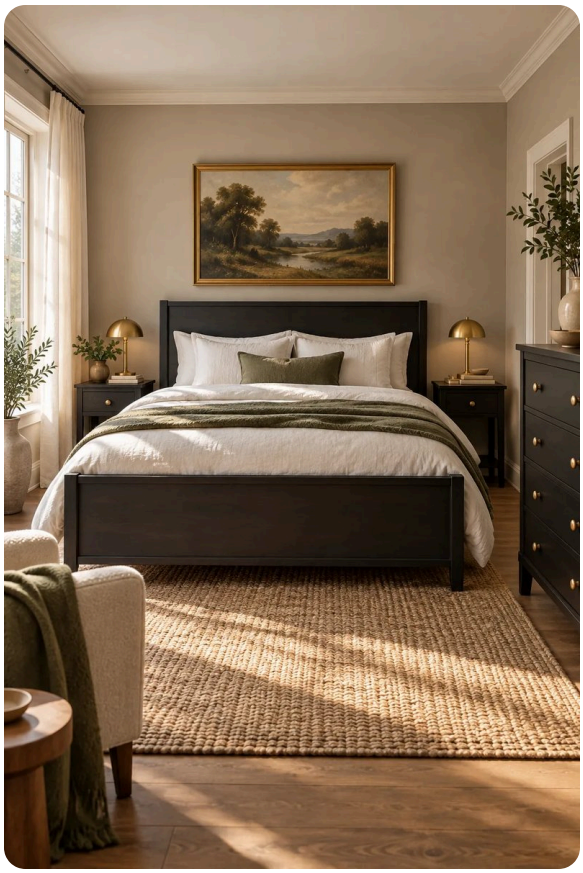
The Black Undertone Pairing Sheet

Harmonize hardware, paint, and textiles with your dark furniture.

Find the exact undertone of your dark furniture to build a cohesive room. Use this guide to confidently select the hardware, paint, and textiles that make your pieces look intentional.



Key Room Targets

100% natural daylight
When darkest piece faces the window

45-60 LRV
Putty wall behind it softens contrast

2700 Kelvin
Soft white bulbs for evening lighting

The Daylight Paper Test

1. **Apply a strict baseline** Hold white paper to it completely flat to avoid casting confusing shadows that look like pigments.
2. **Check in peak daylight** Observe during peak daylight hours when natural illumination reveals the true finish without artificial interference.
3. **Identify the color shift** Note if the finish pulls slightly brown, faint navy or green, or remains stark black.

Satin sheen glows

A satin finish reflects ambient light for a soft glow, making dusting easier while preventing the permanent hand oil smudges that ruin flat matte finishes.

Hardware & Atmosphere Match

Find your row: **Your black undertone**

Your black undertone	Your pick	Why
Warm brown-black	Unlacquered brass or antique bronze	Brass for brown-black enhances muddy richness
Cool blue-black or green	Polished nickel or brushed steel	Enhances the crisp, modern edge
True neutral stark black	Minimalist or highly graphic designs	Maintains a stark finish with no shift

Balancing & Layering Checklist

- [ ] Hang a highly reflective mirror directly above the dresser.
- [ ] Anchor the opposite side with a dark accent chair.
- [ ] Slip a thick, light-toned wool rug under the bed.
- [ ] Layer oatmeal, sage, or soft linen blankets for warmth.
- [ ] Add a medium-tone walnut or white oak bench.
- [ ] Place a tall olive tree or trailing pothos nearby.

Testing Environment Checks

- ○ Turn off indoor bulbs; they cast confusing yellow or blue tones.
- ○ Use bright white printer paper, never off-white, for a true baseline.
- ○ Check the paper test again on an overcast afternoon for diffused light.

Room Notes & Measurements

Enjoy styling your perfectly balanced, beautiful dark bedroom furniture!