

The HTML Color Codes Cheat Sheet

WebsiteSetup.org · Every way to write a color in HTML and CSS

Colors are set with CSS, not with old HTML attributes like `bcolor`. The two properties you use most are `color` for text and `background-color` for fills. One color can be written many ways: a name, a hex code, `rgb()`, `hsl()`, or a modern format. They all paint the same pixels.

Hex codes

Format `#RRGGBB`: three pairs for red, green, blue, each from `00` to `FF`. Twitter blue is `#1DA1F2`. Hex is case-insensitive.

```
#1DA1F2      full 6-digit hex
#F00 = #FF0000 3-digit shorthand (pairs must repeat)
#1DA1F2CC    8-digit adds alpha (about 80% opacity)
```

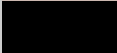
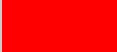
RGB and HSL

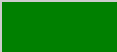
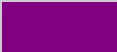
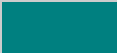
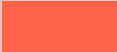
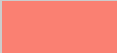
`rgb()` uses the same channels in decimal. HSL describes hue, saturation, and lightness, which makes tweaks intuitive. `rgba()` and `hsla()` are now aliases of `rgb()` and `hsl()`.

```
rgb(29 161 242)    modern space-separated
rgb(29, 161, 242)   legacy comma syntax
rgb(29 161 242 / 80%) alpha via slash
hsl(203 89% 53%)    hue 0-360, sat %, light %
hsl(203 89% 53% / 80%) alpha via slash
```

Named colors

CSS recognizes about 140 named colors (roughly 147 keywords with aliases like `gray / grey` and `cyan / aqua`), plus `rebeccapurple` from CSS Color 4. Convenient, but limited.

Swatch	Name	Hex	Note
	black	<code>#000000</code>	text/base
	white	<code>#FFFFFF</code>	backgrounds
	red	<code>#FF0000</code>	errors
	lime	<code>#00FF00</code>	HTML "green" is lime
	blue	<code>#0000FF</code>	classic links
	yellow	<code>#FFFF00</code>	highlights
	cyan/aqua	<code>#00FFFF</code>	aliases
	magenta/fuchsia	<code>#FF00FF</code>	aliases
	silver	<code>#C0C0C0</code>	light UI
	gray	<code>#808080</code>	neutral
	maroon	<code>#800000</code>	dark red

Swatch	Name	Hex	Note
	olive	#808000	muted
	green	#008000	true green
	purple	#800080	accent
	teal	#008080	accent
	navy	#000080	dark blue
	tomato	#FF6347	warm CTA
	coral	#FF7F50	warm accent
	gold	#FFD700	badges
	orange	#FFA500	CTA
	crimson	#DC143C	strong red
	salmon	#FA8072	soft accent
	khaki	#F0E68C	muted
	indigo	#4B0082	deep accent
	violet	#EE82EE	light purple
	turquoise	#40E0D0	bright accent
	slategray	#708090	UI text
	dimgray	#696969	muted text
	rebeccapurple	#663399	CSS4 tribute

Modern CSS Color 4 formats

Newer formats reach beyond red-green-blue. The `ok` pair is the recommended choice for perceptually-uniform colors and smooth gradients. All ship in evergreen browsers as of 2026: Chrome/Edge 111+, Safari 15.4+, Firefox 113+.

<code>hwb(203 10% 5%)</code>	hue-whiteness-blackness
<code>lch(55% 68 250)</code>	perceptually uniform
<code>oklch(70% 0.15 250)</code>	recommended, great for gradients
<code>color(display-p3 1 0 0)</code>	wide-gamut red

currentColor, transparent, opacity vs alpha

- `currentColor` reuses the element's text color for borders or icons.
- `transparent` equals `rgb(0 0 0 / 0)`, fully see-through.
- The `opacity` property fades the WHOLE element, including its children.
- An alpha channel fades only that one color. For a see-through background with solid text, use `alpha` on the background, not `opacity`.

Gotchas and common mistakes

- Hex is case-insensitive: `#ff6347` equals `#FF6347` .
- `#RGB` shorthand works only when each pair repeats.
- `rgba()` / `hsla()` are aliases now, but the old syntax still works.
- Name trap: `green` is `#008000` , but `lime` is `#00FF00` .
- Do not use deprecated `bgcolor` / `color` HTML attributes: use CSS.
- Opacity and an alpha channel are different tools.