

Color Wheel

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Color temperature in painting is all relative. You can argue that blue is cooler than yellow in general but what if you have 2 blues and 2 yellows? One will most likely be cool and the other warm.

How do you decide which is warmer or cooler?

A cool yellow is one that moves towards green on the color wheel.

A warm yellow is one that moves towards orange.

Cadmium lemon is cool while Cadmium yellow deep is warm.

A cool red is one that moves towards violet on the color wheel

A warm red is one that moves towards orange.

A cool blue is one that moves towards violet on the color wheel.

Permanent Madder Deep is cool while Cad Red light is warm.

A warm blue is one that moves towards green.

For instance Ultramarine is cool

Turquoise is warm.

Titanium white is a cool white. When you use it, it lightens as well as cools the color you mix it with. You may need to add some yellow to re-adjust the temperature.