

## Reminiscing about Pink



Photo credit:  
<http://www.midcenturyhomestyle.com/inside/bathrooms/1950s/gallery/page01.htm>

Pink is so strongly associated with girls these days that it may surprise you to know that until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, little boys were traditionally dressed in pink and girls in blue. Blue was considered calm and serene (which was what little girls were supposed to be) and pink was watered-down red, a fiercer, stronger, bolder color.

That trend slowly reversed itself so that when in 1949 Brooks Brothers introduced a pale pink, button-down oxford cloth dress shirt, it was considered daring. It didn't catch on immediately, but by 1955 the whole world seemed to be tickled pink. Businessmen not only wore pale pink shirts, but some wore Bermuda shorts! Elvis Presley wore black pants with a pink pinstripe down the side seam. Girls wore pink poodle skirts (or black/grey skirts with pink poodles). And anything you wanted in pink, you could get. Millions of people suddenly had:

- Pink bathroom fixtures and pink toilet paper to match
- Pink kitchen stoves, refrigerators and toasters
- Pink cat clocks with a pendulum tail
- Pink typewriters and “princess” phones



Did you ever own any of these things? Where, if at all, did pink figure in your life?





About the time men were being encouraged to add a touch of pink to their grey flannel suits, my mother discovered the joys of hot pink and charcoal grey as a kitchen decorating scheme. She was helped along by a pink and grey boomerang pattern in Formica counter tops, and 25 years later when she moved with my father to Florida, she still hadn't tired of it.

**Did pink ever figure in your home decorating? Did you ever make any other bold decorating moves? What were they? Did you ever regret them/reverse them?**

The decade of the 1950s was also a time when you could get a pink Cadillac or Thunderbird, or a turquoise and white Nash Rambler. In the midst of today's sea of beige and silver, it's hard to imagine that among the choices 1955 Chrysler dealers offered their cars in were:

- Chiffon Green
- Fantasy Yellow
- Pompano Peach
- Tango Red
- Tampa Turquoise



**Did you ever own a car that was especially memorable for its color or its style? Talk about what it meant to you.**



*One woman who was especially pretty in pink*

I believe in pink. I believe that laughing is the best calorie burner. I believe in kissing, kissing a lot. I believe in being strong when everything seems to be going wrong. I believe that happy girls are the prettiest girls. I believe that tomorrow is another day and I believe in miracles. ~ Audrey Hepburn

Not a color, but it sounds like one

Did you ever wonder why your pinkie finger is so much shorter than the others? The answer appears to be evolutionary. We can pick things up or swing on a vine better with fingers of uneven lengths. (Put your fingers around a tennis ball and they will look as if they're the same length.) A long pinkie finger would likely get in the way (or smashed) a lot.

(From *Do Penguins Have Knees?* by David Feldman)

