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Best color for radiators! The fact that black objects radiate the best suggests that the radiators in our houses should be painted black to get the greatest efficiency from the fuel burned. This apparently is not true. Not only will a black radiator give up heat more rapidly than a lighter-colored one, but it will also cool more rapidly unless heat is supplied by the furnace as fast as it is used. So in the end one gets as much radiation from a radiator of any color. Another point is that the air in a room is warmed by contact with the radiator. The color in that case makes no difference; nor does it with other objects warmed by radiated heat. The air in a room is not warmed by radiation, but solid objects are.
