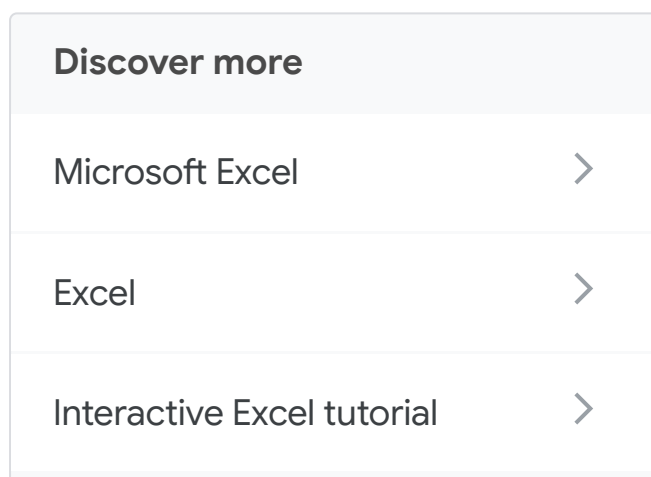


# Color Scales in Excel

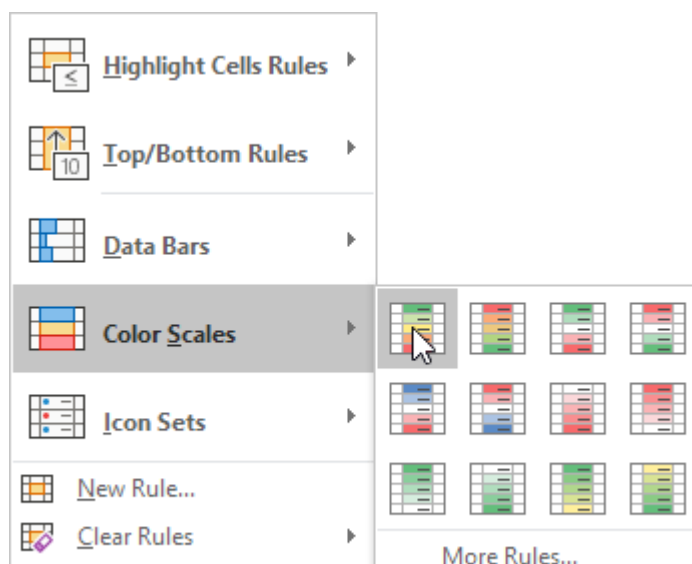
Color Scales in Excel make it very easy to visualize values in a range of cells. The shade of the color represents the value in the cell.

To add a color scale, execute the following steps.

1. Select a range.
2. On the Home tab, in the Styles group, click Conditional Formatting.



3. Click Color Scales and click a subtype.



Result:

	A	B
1	26	
2	37	
3	9	
4	80	
5	36	
6	15	
7	50	
8		

Explanation: by default, for 3-Color scales, Excel calculates the 50th percentile (also known as median, middle value or midpoint). The cell that holds the minimum value (9) is colored red. The cell that holds the median (36) is colored yellow, and the cell that holds the maximum value (80) is colored green. All other cells are colored proportionally.

Read on to further customize this color scale.

4. Select the range A1:A7.

5. On the Home tab, in the Styles group, click Conditional Formatting, [Manage Rules](#).

6. Click Edit rule.

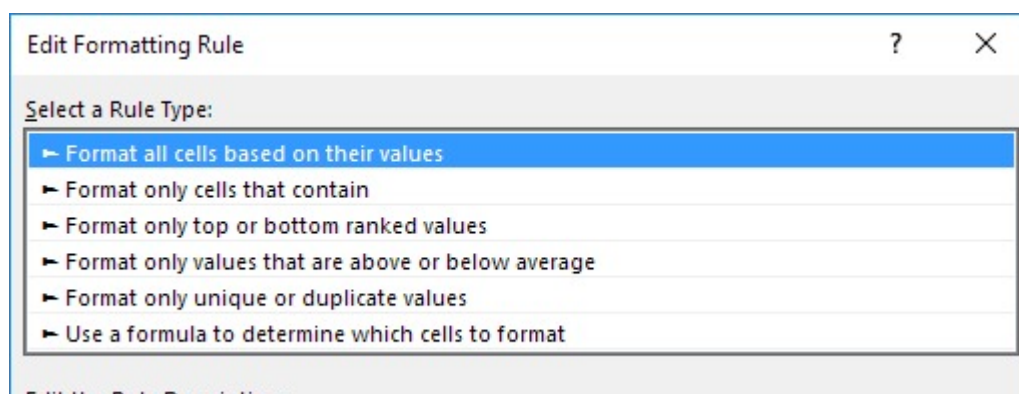
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Excel launches the Edit Formatting Rule dialog box. Here you can further customize your color scale (Format Style, Minimum, Midpoint and Maximum, Color, etc).




**Edit the Rule Description:**

**Format all cells based on their values:**

Format Style: 3-Color Scale

	Minimum	Midpoint	Maximum
Type:	Lowest Value	Percentile	Highest Value
Value:	(Lowest value)	50	(Highest value)
Color:			

Preview: 

OK Cancel

Note: to directly launch this dialog box for new rules, at step 3, click More Rules.

7. Select 2-Color Scale from the Format Style drop-down list and select white and blue.

8. Click OK twice.

**Edit Formatting Rule** ? X

**Select a Rule Type:**


- Format all cells based on their values
- Format only cells that contain
- Format only top or bottom ranked values
- Format only values that are above or below average
- Format only unique or duplicate values
- Use a formula to determine which cells to format

**Edit the Rule Description:**

**Format all cells based on their values:**

Format Style: 2-Color Scale

	Minimum	Maximum
Type:	Lowest Value	Highest Value
Value:	(Lowest value)	(Highest value)
Color:		

Preview: 

OK Cancel

Result:

	A	B
1	26	
2	37	
3	9	
4	80	
5	36	
6	15	
7	50	
8		

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