

What is the purpose of Excel color scales?

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

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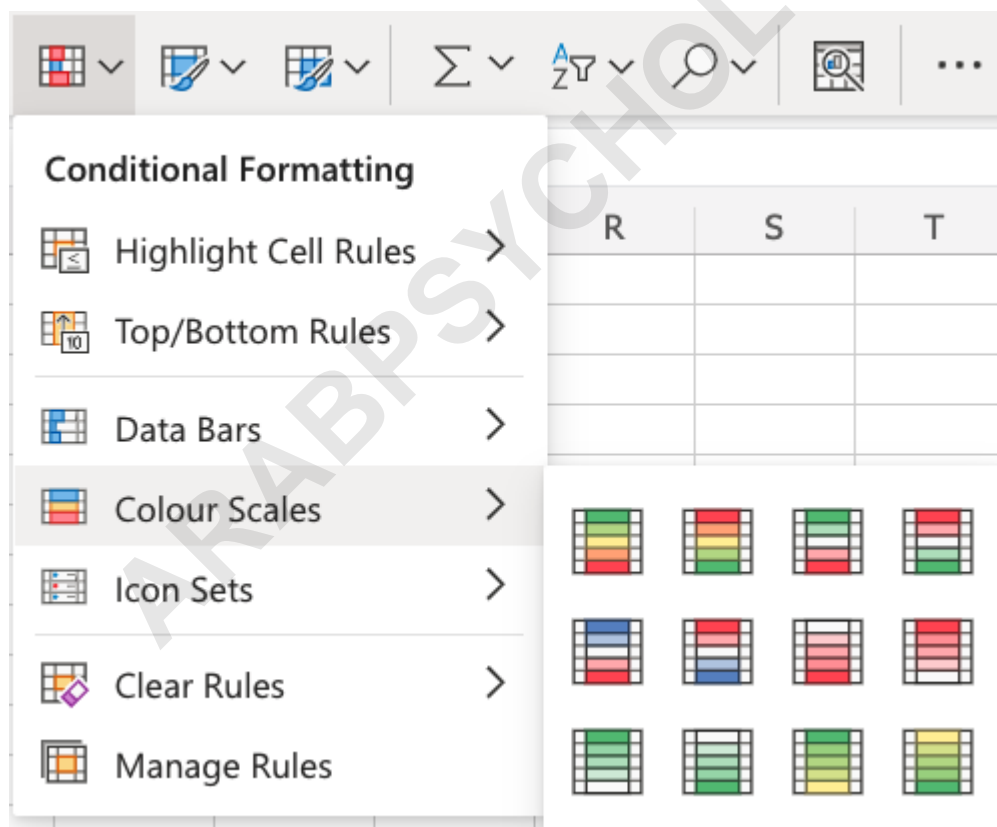
The purpose of Excel color scales is to visually represent data in a clear and organized manner. This feature allows users to assign colors to cells based on their numerical values, making it easier to identify trends and patterns in the data. By using color scales, users can quickly and efficiently analyze large data sets and make informed decisions based on the visual representation of the data. Additionally, it helps to highlight important data points and draw attention to outliers or discrepancies. Overall, the purpose of Excel color scales is to enhance data analysis and presentation for improved decision making.

Excel Color Scales

Color Scales

Color Scales are premade types of conditional formatting in Excel used to highlight cells in a range to indicate how large the cell values are compared to the other values in the range.

Here is the Color Scales part of the conditional formatting menu:



Color Scale Formatting Example

Highlight the Speed values of each Pokemon with **Color Scale** conditional formatting.

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Geodude	Rock	20	
3	Graveler	Rock	35	
4	Golem	Rock	45	
5	Ponyta	Fire	90	
6	Rapidash	Fire	105	
7	Slowpoke	Water	15	
8	Slowbro	Water	30	
9				

Color Scales, step by step:

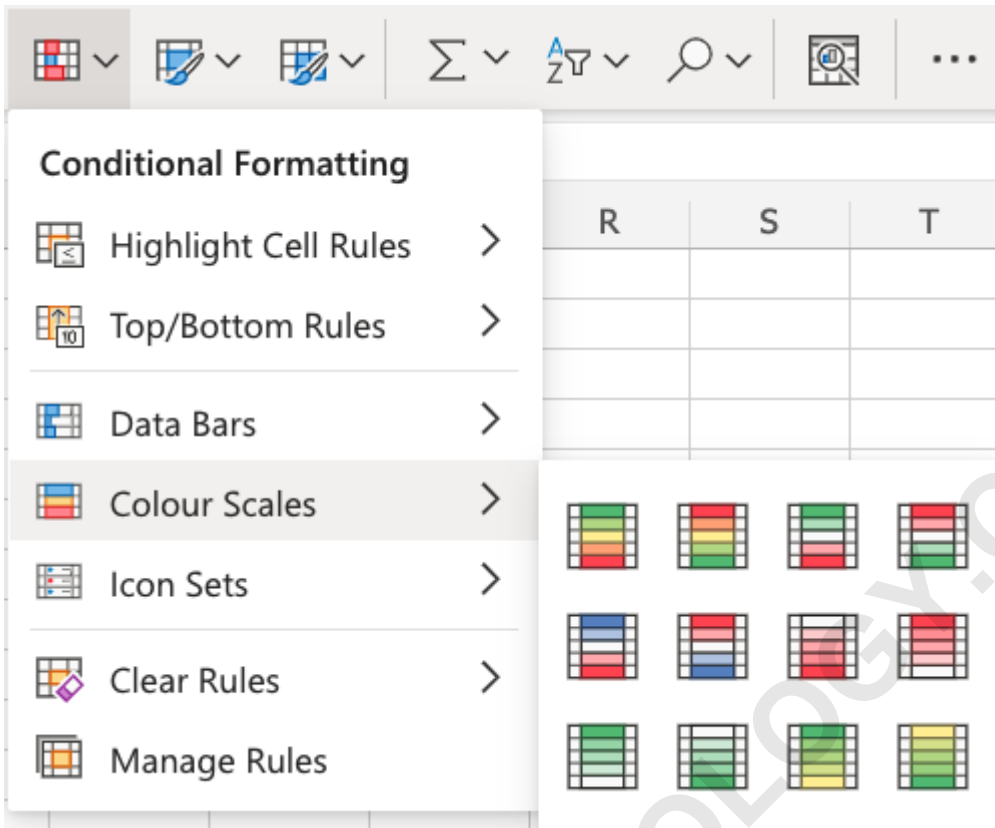
Select the range of Speed values C2:C8

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Geodude	Rock	20	
3	Graveler	Rock	35	
4	Golem	Rock	45	
5	Ponyta	Fire	90	
6	Rapidash	Fire	105	
7	Slowpoke	Water	15	
8	Slowbro	Water	30	
9				



Click on the Conditional Formatting icon in the ribbon, from the **Home** menu Select **Color Scales** from the drop-down menu

in the ribbon, from the **Home** menu Select **Color**

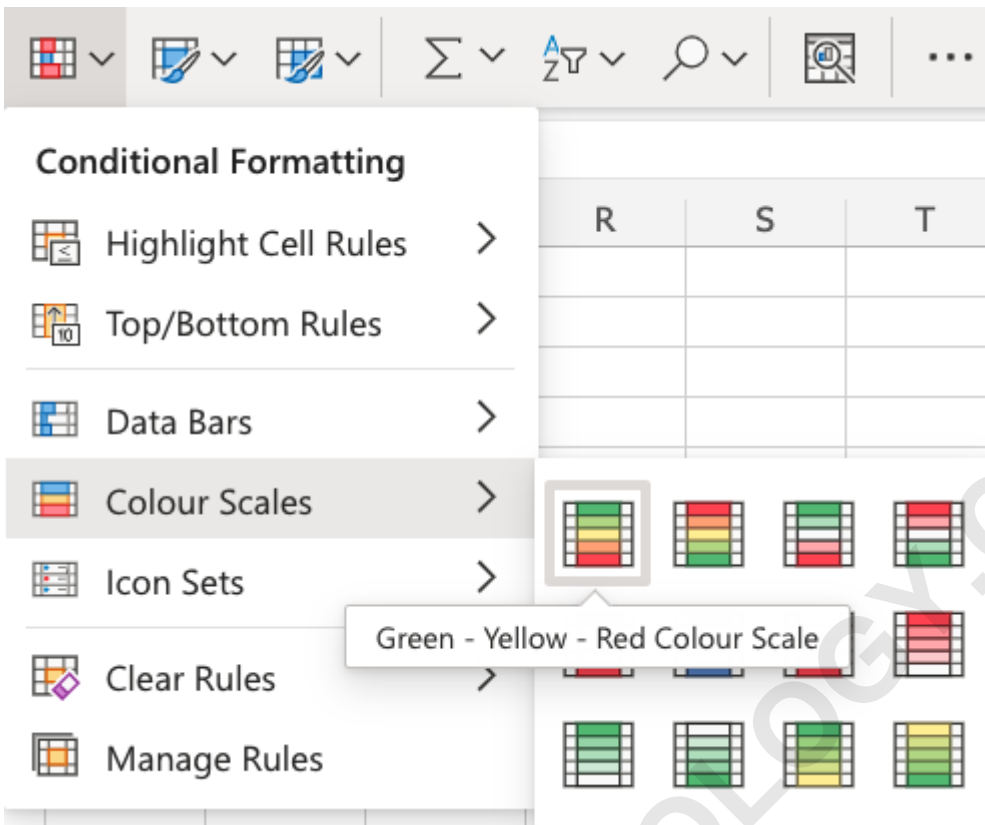


There are 12 Color Scale options with different color variations.



The color on the top of the icon will apply to the highest values.

Click on the "Green - Yellow - Red Colour Scale" icon



Now, the Speed value cells will have a colored background highlighting:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Geodude	Rock	20	
3	Graveler	Rock	35	
4	Golem	Rock	45	
5	Ponyta	Fire	90	
6	Rapidash	Fire	105	
7	Slowpoke	Water	15	
8	Slowbro	Water	30	
9				

Dark green is used for the highest values, and dark red for the lowest values.

Rapidash has the highest Speed value (105) and Slowpoke has the lowest Speed value (15).

All the cells in the range gradually change color from green, yellow, orange, then red.

Note: The color formatting is **relative** to the **smallest** and **largest** cell values in the range.

Let's see what happens if we add a fictional Pokemon with an even slower Speed value than Slowpoke:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Geodude	Rock	20	
3	Graveler	Rock	35	
4	Golem	Rock	45	
5	Ponyta	Fire	90	
6	Rapidash	Fire	105	
7	Slowestpoke	Fictional	1	
8	Slowpoke	Water	15	
9	Slowbro	Water	30	
10				

Now, the fictional Slowestpoke has the lowest Speed value of 1, which is highlighted in dark red.

Notice that the color of Slowpoke's Speed value now is highlighted in orange instead of dark red.

Let's see what happens if we add another fictional Pokemon that is faster than any of the other Pokemon:

	A	B	C	D
1	Name	Type 1	Speed	
2	Geodude	Rock	20	
3	Graveler	Rock	35	
4	Golem	Rock	45	
5	Ponyta	Fire	90	
6	Rapidash	Fire	105	
7	Slowestpoke	Fictional	1	
8	Slowpoke	Water	15	
9	Fastestpoke	Fictional	200	
10	Slowbro	Water	30	
11				

The fictional Fastestpoke has a higher Speed value (200) than any of the other pokemon and is highlighted in dark green.

Rapidash' Speed value of 105 is no longer the highest value and is highlighted with a lighter green.

Notice that the Speed values of the other Pokemon also change as the highest value in the range is now 200 instead of 105.

Note: You can remove the Highlight Cell Rules with Manage Rules.

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