

Home Decorating Hints

Tips For Affordably Decorating Your Home

(NAPSA)—Home decorating projects don't have to overwhelm your senses—or your wallet. With the vast selection of home décor merchandise now available at closeout stores, it's possible to spend less time and money completing the look you desire. Here are a few simple tips:

Organize your project into sub-projects. Take a look at each room individually. Make a decision about what you would like to change and what you would like to keep. For example, you may find that you love the carpet and it's just the window treatments that need replacing.

Start with the basics. Does the couch look a little tired? Consider a sofa cover rather than new upholstery, which can cost thousands. You can also toss an area rug over a worn carpet section, or add a table runner to an end table to cover scratches or watermarks. Look at the large items in the room and either dress them or replace them.

Acknowledge the room's true use. Don't work against the grain—if you truly love to eat in front of the television, then purchase a set of TV trays or add a small side table to hold food and beverages. Add some comfortable floor pillows and organize your movies into a cabinet or rack. Consider an extra set of curtains for a bedroom window to help darken the room. Or set up an art station or a bookshelf in the dining room for easy access to craft projects on the dining room table.

Consider the importance of light. During the cold winter months or just in the evenings you will need some light to brighten a room, even if it has windows. No matter whether it's a hanging or



Simple decorative touches can be an inexpensive way to freshen a room.

standing lamp or an overhead fixture, be sure to purchase light bulbs with the whitest tones; they will be easiest on the eyes. Also, watch the wattage—you can always add more or include a lamp with two or three settings or wall dimmer for variety.

Add creative personalized touches to each room. Once you have the basics covered, pay attention to detail. Each room should reflect your family's style. By including decorative touches like candles, vases, pillows, or even a candy dish, you create a space that allows you to truly relax and enjoy the environment.

Shop closeout to save time and money. Closeout stores like Big Lots have made it easy to save time and money. They carry a large inventory of merchandise at prices up to 70 percent off traditional retailers. Be creative while shopping the store and take a look throughout the aisles, as there are often items in seasonal sections that would work perfectly year round and, in the end, save you money.