

HOME DECOR TIPS

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Decorating your home with flowers

• How about getting a feeling of fresh and perfumed air as soon as you enter your house? You can get this by using some room freshener. But how about something natural? You can get the nature inside your home by decorating your interiors with some fresh and beautiful flowers. Here are some guidelines for you to help decorate your house with flowers.



- The basic thing while decorating your room with the flowers is the color on the walls and the color of the furniture. If the walls or the furniture is dark, then you need to go for bright colors such as red and yellow.
- The vase used for keeping these flowers should be equally beautiful. It need not be very expensive but should be very pretty.
- You should choose flowers according to its season. You should have the knowledge of the flowers related to a particular season, the colors, etc. You can take the help of the internet or an encyclopedia to make a research on this.



- You can use this traditional approach of decorating your house with full pettalled flowers such as roses and chrysanthemums. You can arrange these flowers by tying them with some green stem and arranging them in a vase.
- You can also have a country side look by placing flowers like tulips, daisies, dahlias in a watering can or a small bucket of water for a fresh garden feel.
- For springs you can use soft or bright colored flowers bloomed flowers. Tulips and daffodils are some of the spring flowers.
- You can use bright or vibrant colored flowers for the summer arrangements. Sunflowers and dahlias are some of the summer flowers that can be preferred.
- For autumns you can use golden or rusty-orange hued flowers with some autumn leaves to give a perfect feeling of the autumn. Chrysanthemums or red-dyed sunflowers can be used.

Better Lighting for an exciting living space

Fresh lighting can really transform an interior space. By changing lamps, shades, and fixtures, you can bring freshness, warmth, excitement, and ambiance to a living space



- Update Your Lamp Shades

A fresh lamp shade can really perk up a boring lamp. When the pleats get flat or the lining burns off, get rid of the lamp shade and give the lamp a new life. The easiest way is to take your lamps and an old shade to a lighting store or home center. You'll be able to replace the size and shape easier and see how any new shade will look on the lamp.

For a real new look, experiment with a colored shade, a different shape, or one with a metallic lining. Consider covering a shade frame with fabric or wallpaper that coordinates with your decor. Another option would be to decorate plain linen with stencils, a color wash, or decoupage finish.

For a unique finishing touch, add fringe, beads, or braid to the bottom and to edge of the shade using craft glue that dries clear or a hot glue gun. To top it all off, find a new finial that draws the eye up.

- Install a Dimmer

Adjusting the intensity of light in a room is a simple process if each light fixture has a dimmer switch attached. The light can be controlled at a wall switch or with a dimmer on the light cord. It's really quite easy to install a dimmer and it will give you the ability to adjust the light according to your need. You can choose from numerous styles of dimmers for any need.



Have full light for homework and hobbies. Turn down the light for romantic dinners or quiet evenings in the family room. For general lighting during the day, adjust the light to a medium intensity.

In addition, the life of every light bulb can be lengthened when it's dimmed. Think of the money you'll save.

- Make a Custom Lamp

If you can't find a lamp that you like, consider making one yourself. If you have a vase you like, an interesting box, a pretty basket, vision it as a lamp base. Purchase a kit to construct a lamp at any home center or lighting store. Or have a lamp shop put together your new vision of a lamp.

- **Place Lights on a Book Shelf** Often, bookshelves are dark and it's hard to find the book you're searching for. Install under shelf light fixtures, strip lights, or a small lamp.

● **Top Off Your Art With a Picture Light** If you've invested in fine art, you probably already know this tip. But even modest art looks better with directed lighting focusing on it. Select the right size for your piece and the room.

With fresh, new lighting, you can achieve a fresh new look for your home. You don't have to spend a lot of money.

Relax with aromatherapy candles

Nothing turns a commonplace, ho-hum room into a radiant, inviting setting faster than the flicker of a few ordinary candles scattered strategically throughout the room. Add scented candles and you can quickly evoke childhood memories, transport your imagination to a tropical island, or infuse the room with the crisp scent of a pine forest. Aromatherapy candles add yet another dimension to the equation.



Aromatherapy candles release a small, but continuous stream of herbal and floral essential oils into the air as they burn. The chemicals in the essential oils enter your body as you breathe, and travel throughout the body, including the brain, through the bloodstream. You receive subtle benefits as the chemicals interact with your body. Don't expect to receive full healing benefits by lighting a candle, but aromatherapy candles provide the same dual benefits inherent in conventional aromatherapy in less concentrated doses: smell therapy and chemical reactions to the essential oils.

Burn aromatherapy candles to alter, enhance, and improve your state of mind while adding a touch of nature's pure perfume to your surroundings. What a pleasant, powerful quick fix to an otherwise rotten day, not to mention a less destructive alternative to downing a pint of ice cream or a pound of chocolate to chase away the blahs.

Let aromatherapy candles help set the right mood for others with whom you spend time. Your guests will only know that you have that 'special something,' that magical touch when it comes to hospitality.

Tips for Using Aromatherapy Candles:

Make sure that you purchase aromatherapy candles, not just scented candles. Look for labels that include 'pure essential oils.'

Select the right candle for the situation. The best way to ensure that you have selected the best candle to achieve your goal is to purchase a candle with labeling that reflects your desired effect.



Invigorate - Perhaps you arrive home lethargic and drained after a grueling day at work, and like so many other busy parents, your workday at home is just beginning—with no time for an intervening catnap. Treat yourself to a short break, and light an energizing aromatherapy candle. Invigorating candles typically contain some mixture of oils from the mint and citrus

families. The mint essential oils—peppermint, spearmint, basil, and eucalyptus—provide quick stimulation, revitalization, and an extra dose of energy. Other invigorating essential oils include cedar, rosemary, cinnamon, geranium, cassia, and vanilla.

Relax – when you really want to relax and enjoy some quiet time. Light a stress-releasing aromatherapy candle, take a few deep breaths, and allow your mind to clear. Stress-releasing essential oils include lavender, chamomile, patchouli, geranium and rose.

Concentrate - Use aromatherapy candles to improve concentration when you need to tap into your creative powers. Nothing sparks creativity like the ability to concentrate and block mental and environmental distractions. Citrus essential oils help you to concentrate: lemon, orange, grapefruit, lemongrass, and bergamot.

Add atmosphere – You've planned a quiet evening at home with that special someone, and you've made every effort to impress. You've cooked a delicious dinner, fresh flowers grace your home, the table is set with china, and you've never looked better. Add the final touch with an aromatherapy candle containing some of the sensual essential oils: Ylang ylang, vanilla, neroli, rose, clary sage, sandalwood.

When you light more than one aromatherapy candle, burn candles with complementary, not competing essential oils. You don't want to burn candles with invigorating oils along with candles that contain a relaxing mixture of oils. Your body will receive mixed signals.

COLOURS

Colors play an important part in your Home Decor process. Colors are what give life and personality to your room. Here are some quickies to keep in mind when deciding over colors.



- If you are using many colors in one single room, make sure you use a color at least three times in the same room. You could use shades and tints of that color. For e.g. your curtains, pillows and tablecloth can be of the same color. This gives a look of harmony and help avoid the 'too much' and 'confused' look.
- For filling space, use warm colors like reds, yellows and oranges. They tend to grab the eye and fill the space and are soothing and warm.
- For giving an illusion of more and open space, use cool colors like blues, greens and violets
- For a serene and comforting look, use pale pinks. The closer pink gets to red, the more energetic it becomes.
- Use vertical stripes on walls and curtains for an illusion of height.

- Light colored walls and ceilings make the room look larger and more spacious.
- Try to avoid contradicting colors and themes. If you want your room to look larger and need to use cool colors to achieve it, choose a theme which goes with cool colors.
- If same-colored sofa, carpet and other upholstery give a monotonous look, use colorful cushions and wall-hangings to break the monotony.

Understand space needs for a satisfying home decor

When planning your home décor, it is vitally important to understand your space needs. Do you have enough room to open any doors? Can you walk from one side of the room to the other without climbing over the furniture? Here are some rules to keep in mind when you plan your room update:



- **Living Room** – Keep in mind that for good conversational and traffic flow, keep at least 4-10 feet between sofa and chairs. Place your coffee table between 14-18 inches from the sofa (although I would only use 18 inches if you have long arms!).
- **Family Room** – To the above rules about sofa and chair placement, add the viewing area needed for a television. To view a 30 inch TV screen, the sofa or chair should be at least 90 inches away to create an easy flow in any room; there should be walking strips which are at least three feet wide.
- **Dining Room** - A seated adult at a round or square table usually occupies a depth of about 20 inches with at least 12-16 inches more to pull back a chair. Rectangular tables need at least 24 inches per person and about 32-36 inches clearance between table and walls. On the serving side, the table to wall distance should be at least 44 inches.
- **Bedroom** – For maximum comfort, the distance from the bed to the wall should be at least 24 inches. To allow any door to open easily, there should be 36 inches between the bed and the door. Knowing how much space you really need in a room can make planning your space much easier. Be sure to measure your room height and length, the size of windows and check to see if your room is “true” or square before you place your furniture. Doing so will help avert a potential disaster like buying a king-size bed for a queen-size room!