25 Simple Tips to Decorate Your Home

A practical mini-guide from The House & Homekeeper

Decorating feels easier when you make one decision at a time. Use these quick, budget-friendly ideas to make rooms feel more pulled together without starting over.

Start with a plan

1. **Choose one feeling for the room.** Pick three words such as calm, bright, and welcoming. Use them to guide color, furniture, and accessories.
2. **Notice what the room already does well.** Keep its best feature - a window, fireplace, wood floor, or view - clear and let it lead the layout.
3. **Measure before you shop.** Write down wall lengths, door swings, and the space around furniture. Keep the measurements on your phone.
4. **Make a simple room sketch.** Mark doors and windows, then move paper furniture shapes until the walking paths feel easy.
5. **Set a spending limit by category.** Decide what matters most, such as a rug or lighting, before buying small extras.

Make color and materials work together

6. **Start with a color you already love.** Pull two or three supporting shades from a favorite painting, rug, or fabric.
7. **Repeat each accent color.** Use a shade at least twice in a room so it looks intentional instead of accidental.
8. **Use a quiet base and add color in layers.** Neutral walls and larger pieces make it easier to change pillows, art, or accessories later.
9. **Mix textures for warmth.** Pair smooth surfaces with woven, nubby, natural, or softly polished materials.
10. **Limit competing patterns.** Combine one large-scale pattern with a smaller one and a solid; keep a shared color between them.

Arrange furniture for real life

11. **Keep clear walking routes.** Leave comfortable paths between doors and the places people sit or work.
12. **Pull seating into conversation.** Angle chairs toward one another instead of lining every piece against the walls.
13. **Choose a rug large enough for the furniture.** At minimum, place the front legs of nearby seating on the rug to connect the group.
14. **Hang curtains high and wide.** Place the rod above the window frame and extend it beyond the sides so open curtains do not block the glass.
15. **Leave breathing room.** A little open surface and floor space helps favorite pieces stand out and makes cleaning easier.

Finish with lighting and details

16. **Use more than one light source.** Combine overhead light with a table lamp, floor lamp, or task light for a comfortable room.
17. **Match bulbs by warmth.** Use bulbs with similar color temperature in the same space so the light feels consistent.
18. **Hang art at eye level.** Center the artwork near standing eye height, or lower it slightly when it sits above a sofa or console.
19. **Group small objects in threes.** Vary their height and shape, then leave space around the group.

20. **Add a plant or natural branch.** A living green accent or a simple branch brings shape and softness to a room.

Edit and make it yours

21. **Style shelves with a mix of books and objects.** Stack some books horizontally and leave a few open spaces for a calmer display.
22. **Use a tray to gather loose items.** It makes remotes, candles, or everyday essentials look organized and easy to move.
23. **Make the entry useful first.** Add a landing spot for keys, a place to sit, and a hook or basket for things used every day.
24. **Try a change before you buy.** Rearrange what you own, swap pieces between rooms, and live with the new setup for a few days.
25. **Finish by removing one thing.** Step back from the room and take away one item that feels unnecessary; a little editing often makes the whole space feel better.

Your easy first step

Choose one room and try just one tip today. A small change that makes daily life easier is a good start.

The House & Homekeeper
Simple ideas for a home that feels good to live in.