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# Easy Ways to Refresh Your Home Decor

Written by Shannon McCarthy

Want to decorate your domicile in style but not waste entire weekends or head into hock? Consider small changes that'll make a big impact. Rooms are transformed just by switching out accent pieces or window and floor coverings. Save money *and* time with our quick-change décor ideas.

## Editor's Picks



Fabric shower curtains



Oversized wall clocks



Carved picture frames



Flokati rugs



Reproduction maps



Crystal vases

## Slipcovers, Pillows and Throws: Soft Landings

Skip the new furniture purchase and create entirely different home décor moods simply by switching up the extras. Slipcovers provide the biggest bang for your makeover buck and have the added benefit of extending the life of older furniture. They're also a less expensive way of following home décor trends, like this year's muted blue, gray, green and purple palette. Changing accent pillows is an easy trick every smart decorator knows. An odd number of pillows, say three or five, looks modern, and they *don't* have to match. Use contrasting textures, patterns and colors (burnt orange and honeysuckle pink are currently hot accent hues) for a refreshingly eclectic look—just make sure they all have at least one color in common. Toss a richly textured throw over the back of the sofa for a truly cozy and welcoming vibe.



Sofa slipcovers



Chair slipcovers



Patterned accent pillows



Textured accent pillows



Knit throw blankets



Faux-fur throw

## Mirrors and Wall Décor: Just Hanging Out

Got a small room? Hang a large mirror on a wall opposite a window and watch your space expand. Like the best home décor pieces, mirrors are both decorative and practical, and they're not just for hanging—prop a

sizeable rectangular mirror against a wall and get the room-enlarging benefit sans hardware. Small mirrors are affordable, and totally modern, when hung in a trio. Another on-trend idea is hanging a cluster of framed artwork and photos of various shapes and sizes very close together so you achieve a chicly haphazard display. Cheaper and easier than painting, wall stencils and peel-and-stick wall decals add character to a room in mere moments, while sleek floating shelves provide more surface space for your fave collectibles and a needed focal point for too-bare walls.



Floor mirrors



Wall mirrors



Framed artwork



Multi-piece  
frame sets



Wall decals



Floating wall  
shelves

## Area Rugs and Window Treatments: The Fabric of Life

Laying down a bright and cheery area rug and exchanging heavily insulated draperies for sheer and diaphanous curtain panels is an excellent way to mark the changing of seasons. It'll also remake the look of your room as dramatically as a new shade of paint on the walls. Jute and sisal rugs bring in spring, and chiffon drapery, honeycomb cellular shades or vividly-hued roman shades lighten a room considerably. (Of course you can then easily re-decorate in the opposite direction come the cooler months.) Look for Oriental and Berber accent carpets to add timeless warmth, and hang velvet drapes or luxe-look balloon shades to create a cocoon-like embrace in your home. Valances, scarves and decorative tie-backs are all easy accents to add or subtract depending on your domestic desires.



Sheer curtain  
panels



Honeycomb  
cellular shades



Jute area rugs



Berber area  
rugs



Velvet curtains



Curtain  
holdbacks

## Lighting and Lampshades: Bright Ideas

Interior designers usually recommend at least three light sources to a room, because the interplay between dark and light can sculpt your space like nothing else. The look of your indoor lighting during the day is also important to the feel of a room, but you don't necessarily have to ditch the entire lamp—change just the lampshade, say, from a printed cotton number blooming with florals to a coolly sophisticated solid-color silk drum shade and you've made a major switch with only a minor outlay of time and money. (The same idea goes for ceiling fixtures, too.) Small accent lamps add warmth to side tables, mini spotlights brighten dark corners, while picture lights illuminate artwork and wall sconces bring retro glamour (and perhaps a needed reading light) to any room.



Silk drum  
shades



Accent lamps



Industrial task  
lamps



Mini spotlights



Picture lights



Wall sconces

## Decorative Accents: Piece Work

Get your atmosphere in gear with touches of beauty and warmth, where your major interior design change can be as simple as replacing a cluster of candles with a grouping of glass vases. Accent pieces abound, and they don't have to be large, antique or expensive to make a real difference. The trend this year is "overcrowding"—seashells, small clocks, decorative bowls, those aforementioned vases and candles—group your collection close together on the mantel piece, a side table or a floating shelf. Small plants, faux or real, are also gorgeous gathered together. (Think succulents and bonsai.) Ottomans with storage space offer double-duty versatility, while simply changing cabinet pulls and knobs, or updating switch plate and heater register covers, can remake a room's vibe almost as much as a new furniture set.



Glass vases



Desk clocks



Decorative bowls



Succulents



Storage ottomans



Cabinet knobs





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