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**DECORATING A
HOME ON A
BUDGET: AN
EASY GUIDE**



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Abstract

Dressing up your home in a budget calls for some smart home decoration options, we have plenty of tips to help you out!



1.0 Getting Started

Some people are born with a great eye for decorating or design. Others learn the skill and are able to apply it successfully. And then there are the rest of us. If you don't have much of a knack for design, a few basic techniques can go a long way.

These decorating rules and principles are simple enough that most anyone can apply them.

Why Invest in a Home and Interior Decoration?

The way we do home decorating is our opportunity to build the kind of space we enjoy, and it says a lot about our tastes and preferences. Are you an extrovert, placing as many chairs as you can so you can bring all your loved ones together or an introvert designing the perfect self-care evening? Everything from your selection of colours to the number of throw cushions you put on the sofa is an opportunity to create a setting where you and your special people will thrive and to make your impact. You can create a calming space with a simple colour palette, a cosy and inviting home with warm tones, or a vibrant and lively fun area with bold patterns.

2.0 Basic Interior Design Principles

When you know the basic interior design principles you can transform any space to look fabulous. You know what it feels like when you walk into a well-designed room. You can sense how everything feels cohesive and put together. It feels just right. You can achieve that effect in your own home with a little knowledge of basic design principles. Pair that knowledge with practice and experimentation and you're on your way to creating a beautiful home.



☞ Balance

In design, balance creates a feeling of equilibrium. It is all about equalizing or approximating the visual weight of objects. Balance is created not just through shape, but through color, pattern, and texture as well.

There are three different kinds of balance:

- ☞ Symmetrical or formal: Traditional or formal spaces call for symmetrical balance where the space is evenly split into two sides that mirror each other. For example, two chairs on either side of a coffee table can be said to be symmetrically balanced. This kind of balance is easy to achieve as design elements are repeated on each side. If you are not careful, this kind of balance can become monotonous and boring.

- ❑ **Asymmetrical or Informal:** The visual weights of lines, colors, forms, and textures are balanced without exact duplication. It is not as ordered as symmetrical balance and can be more complex and interesting. For instance, a sofa can be balanced by placing two chairs on the other side.
- ❑ **Radial balance** is achieved when there is a central focal point with other elements radiating from it or around it. An example would be a round dining table, with chairs arranged around it. There is a lot of repetition of form, texture, and color.



🕒 **Rhythm**

As in music, rhythm in design is all about creating patterns of repetition and contrast to create visual interest.

You can achieve this by using the same color or shape at different intervals. Its purpose is to move your eye around the room. For instance, you can establish a rhythm by using a color in the pillows, picking it up in a painting, and echoing it again in a rug. These repetitions will help carry your eye around the room.

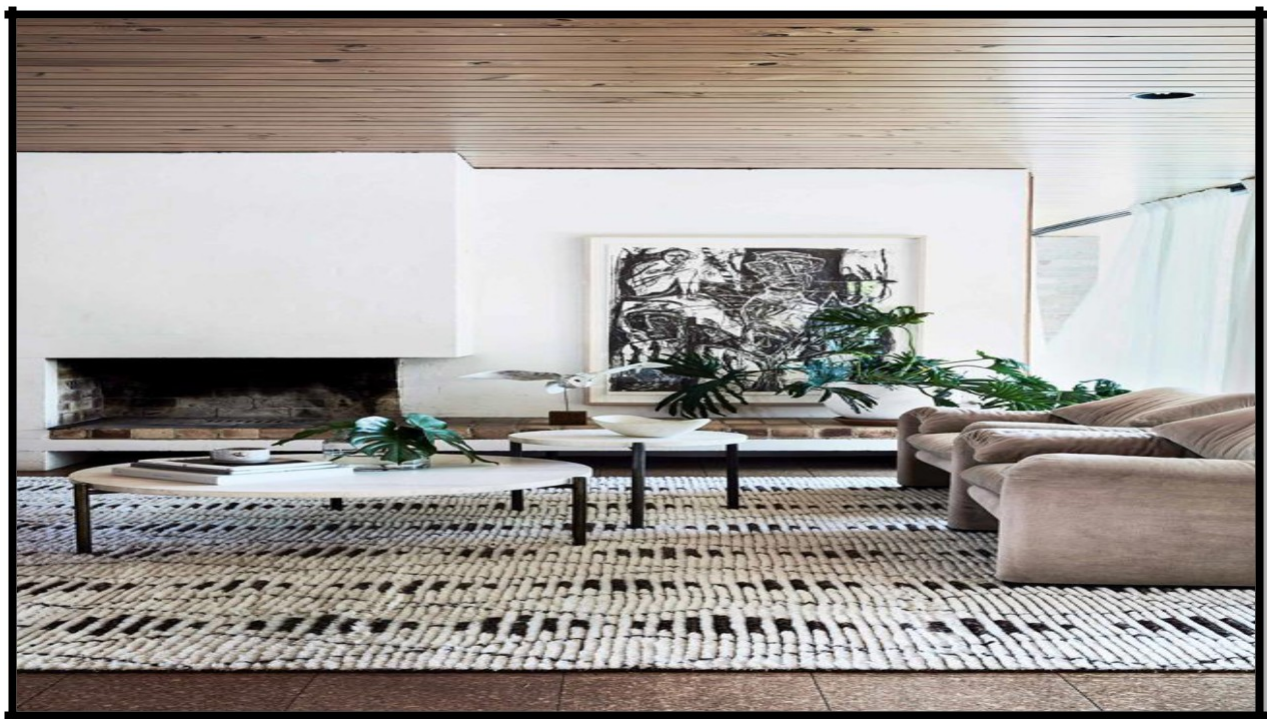
🕒 **Harmony**

Harmony is created when all the elements act together to create a unified message. Just as rhythm can create excitement, harmony creates a sense of

restfulness. For instance, you can create harmony by using just one color, even though your forms vary greatly in shape, size, and texture.

🌀 **Emphasis**

A room where everything gets equal importance will seem either scattered or boring. You need an anchor. Architectural spaces often have points of interest such as a fireplace or a window with a beautiful view. You can choose to enhance the built-in focal point by arranging furniture around it to emphasize it. In a room that lacks such a built-in point of interest, you can create one through groupings of furniture or using an unusual or large piece.



🌀 **Proportion and Scale**

Proportion is the ratio between the size of one part to another, and scale is how the size of one object relates to another or to the space in which it is placed. For instance, a large overstuffed sectional in a small room will be out of scale. Some proportional relationships are more pleasing than others. The ancient Greeks came up with the Golden Section, which sought to reduce all proportion to a simple formula: The ratio of the smaller section to the larger section should be the same as that of the larger

section to the whole. This proportion is present in nature, and artists and architects have used it as well.

3.0 How to Decorate Your Home in Sydney

A new home is a blank canvas; you get the opportunity to transform each and every room into a personality filled space that you'll adore. Whether you're tired of your old space or you're moving into a new one, decorating it is imperative to adding coziness and charm. Try changing up large aspects of your home along with incorporating small details, for the best results.



Method 1 Making Big Changes

🔨 Paint your walls.

If you live in a rented space, this might not be an option for you.

However, if you're able to, painting the walls in your house can be one of the quickest ways to freshen up the look and add a bit of interest. Choose a color that complements your personality and fits your space. If you're bubbly and fun, consider a golden yellow or bright green. Calm and collected? A shade of gray or blue might be more your pace. Paint isn't permanent, so feel free to experiment with colors until you find a look you love!

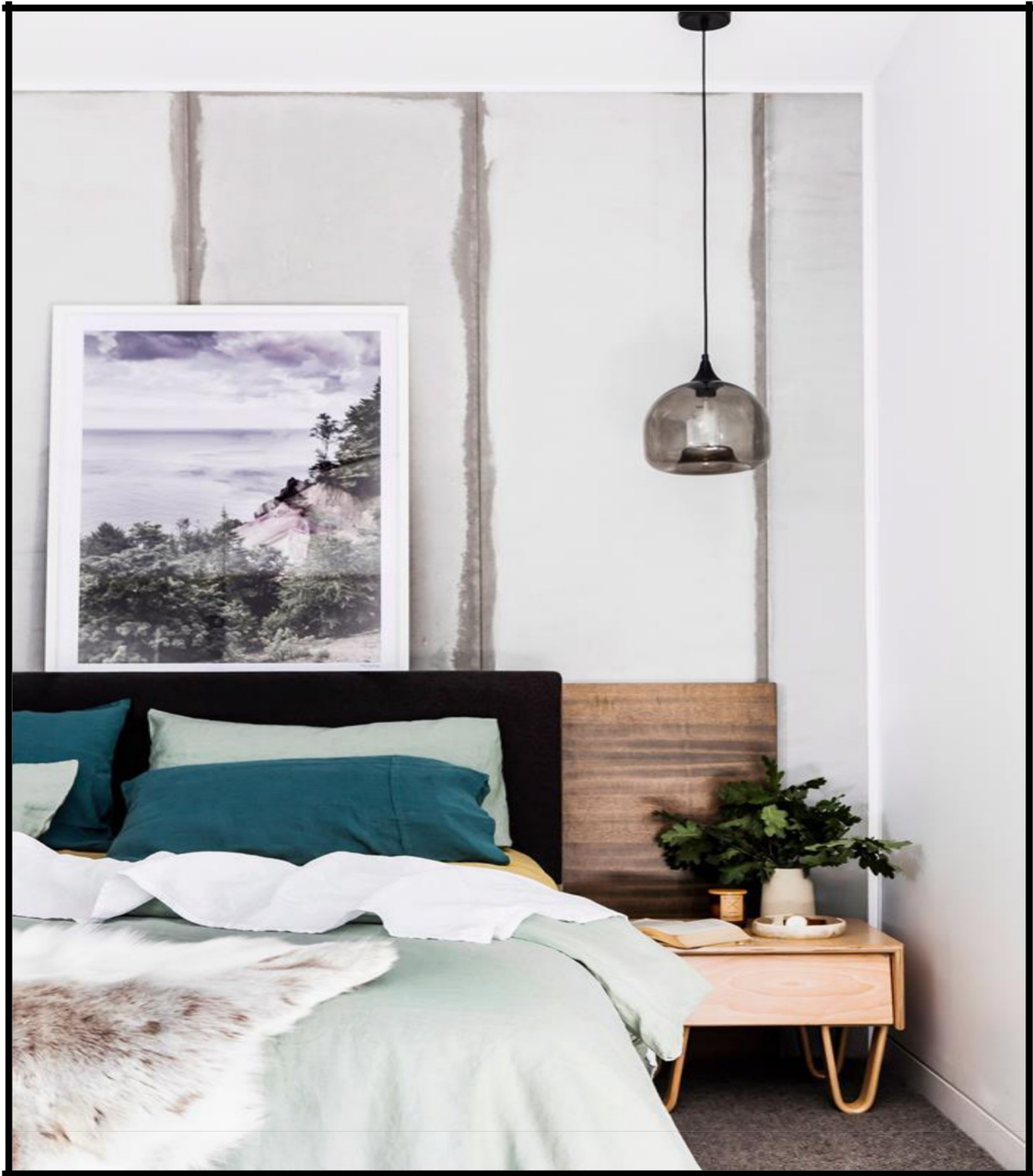


🏠 Clean your home.

Decorating your house reflects your personal style. But, if you have time constraints, then you can choose to decorate your house in a simple way. House cleaning is an integral part of your daily chore. So, why not decorate your house in a simple way so that cleaning becomes an easier task for you. You can also opt for house cleaning services in Sydney for complete cleaning solutions.



📌 Try out new furniture.



Furniture is arguably the most important aspect of decorating; if you're short on furniture or have been using the same pieces for many years, consider bringing some new furniture into your home. Choose comfortable pieces in

colors and styles that match your
personality.

Don't be afraid to try something other than what the store model has set up; furniture that truly shows your personality will fit in your space better than boring floor model furniture you pick up because it is on sale.

❏ **Use decorative storage.**

Whether you're incredibly organized or a bit of a hoarder, nearly everyone has stuff that needs to go into storage. Rather than shoving it under a bed or in the back of a closet, try using decorative storage instead. Look for ottomans that store things in their hollow centers, entertainment centers with doors, and large bookshelves and hutches to hold your knickknacks. By using storage that's attractive, you kill two birds with one stone.

Method 2 Adding Decorative Details

❏ **Hang up some artwork.**

Nothing does more for a space than filling the walls with artwork, prints, and posters. Choose a selection of artwork and prints in complementary colors and themes; think nature photography, paintings, concert posters, favorite quotes, etc. Head to a local thrift store or the clearance rack of a department store and pick up some picture frames that match the sizes of your artwork. Then, hang your prints all over your home. A bare wall is a boring wall, so try to have at least a few large pieces and a few small pieces of art displayed throughout your house.

❏ **Add your favorite pictures/memories.**

To make your house truly idiosyncratic and appealing, add framed photos of your favorite memories, trips, people, and locations. You can print large photographs from different experiences throughout your life to hang as centerpieces on your walls, or you can print small versions to place in standing frames around your house. People will love seeing your home filled with your favorite pictures, and you'll always have good things to be reminded of while you sit and relax.

❏ **Use creative lighting.**

Generic light covers and shades may come with your home, but they typically lack interest and personality. Mix up your lighting by purchasing new, more decorative options. Look for items to work as your primary light source that match the general style of the room, but that aren't too bold. Small interesting lamps can be interspersed throughout your home to add light and flare to your style. If you're interested in DIY, you can purchase old lamps and shades from a thrift store and spray paint or cover them in fabric for a fresh new look.

🪧 Hang up some new curtains.

Curtains are one of the most underused style tools in decorating a home. With just a bit of carpentry work, you can install curtain rods and add lovely curtains that match your furniture perfectly. Look for curtains that have plenty of color or pattern to brighten up your room. If you're working in a space you'd like to keep dark (like a bedroom), you can add room-darkening curtains or drapes in dark hues to block out light. If you're trying to make a space look bigger, add light colored and textured curtains.

3.1 Key Components to Decorating Your Entire Home in Sydney

So take some time and scroll through these basic Ideas for decorating every nook and cranny of your house. It will be a home by the time you're finished.

🪨 Painting



🔨 Paint living room

Where do you usually spend the most time in your home? For most people, that's the living room. It's a place of relaxation, entertainment and connection. But since that's where you spend so much time, you'll be more likely to redecorate it more often. So when you're thinking about paint colors, going with something neutral is really going to help you in the long run. By the time you've changed your patterned throw pillows once, you'll be glad you went with cream. (via 79 Ideas)

🔨 Paint kitchen

Kitchens are for cooking and reading directions and washing dishes. Anyone who spends any time in their kitchen at all knows that sufficient lighting is super important for all of these tasks. So covering the room in all white will help you get the most light possible, no matter how many windows or how much lighting there is. (via Remodelista)

🔨 Paint bedroom

When it comes to painting the bedroom, there are many options that all filter down to one aspect: cool tones. Cool colors like blue and green and gray are calming for the mind. It makes sense to paint your bedroom a calming color that will help you relax as you fall asleep. Dark or light depends on your window situation, but go with blue and you can't go wrong. (via Apartment Therapy)

🔨 Paint bathroom

Mulling over what color to paint your bathroom? I'm gonna ask you to think outside the paint can for a minute. Why not go wallpaper shopping and cover your bathroom in your favorite bold pattern? It will certainly make a usually dull space really pop. (via Studio McGee)

🪞 Windows

🔨 windows living room

Window treatments can be puzzling. There are so many options, it's sometimes impossible to decide. When it comes to the living room though, I'm going to let you off the hook. (via Design Sponge)



☑ windows kitchen



In my experience, kitchens can end up being one of the hottest places in the house, thanks to that afternoon sun. If you're dealing with the same problem, put up some shades on

those windows. Bamboo shades or linen shades are great options that block out that hot sun while being stylish and getting you away from blinds. (via Airows)



🚪 windows bedroom

We've probably all heard that you sleep better in the pitch black, so when it comes to dressing your bedroom windows, think about doubling up. A set of blinds will help a lot but you can make it even darker by hanging some heavy curtains over top. (via Disc Journal)

🚪 windows bathroom

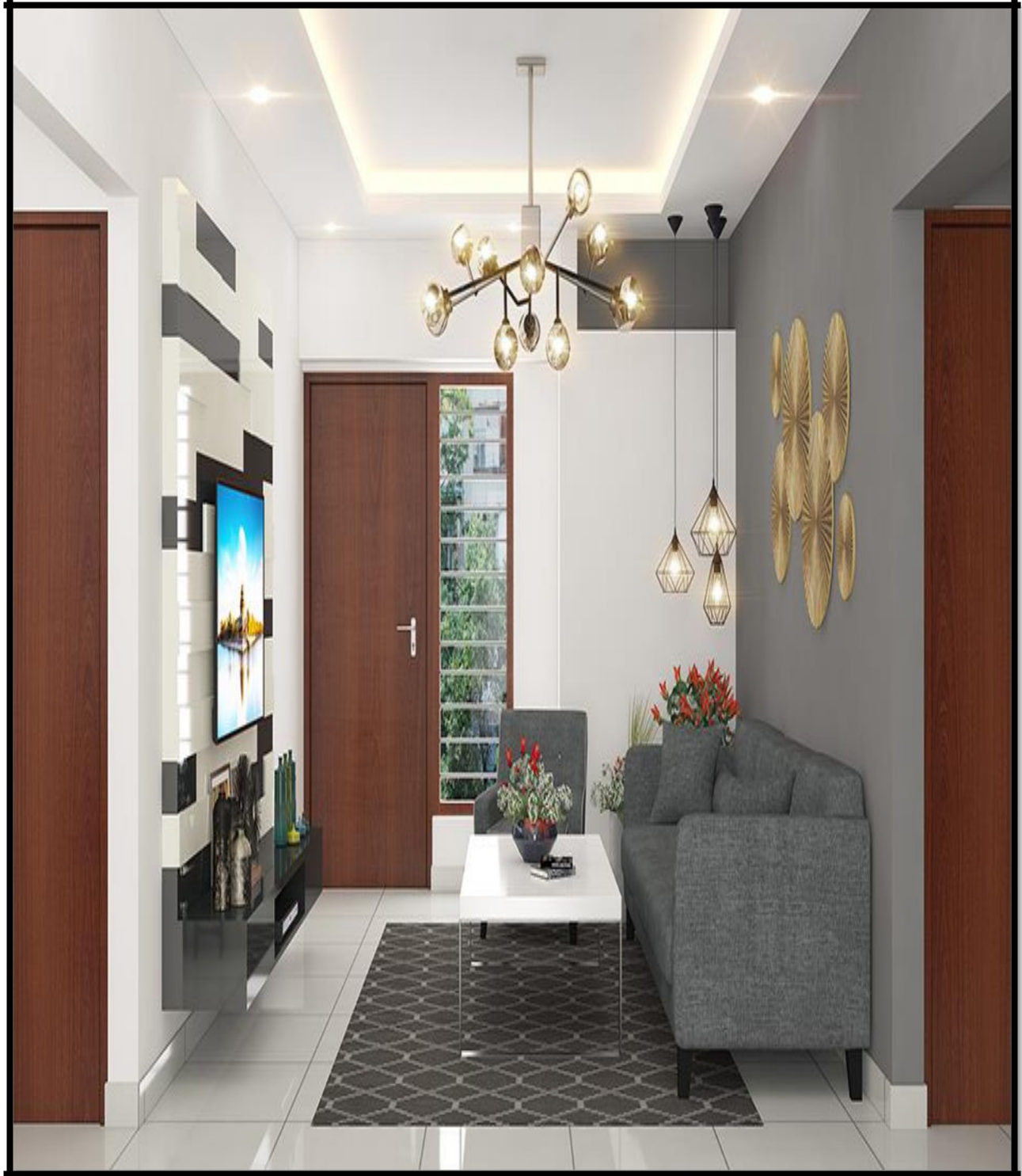
Bathroom windows are possibly the most frustrating thing to decorate. How do you get privacy without creating a space for mold and mildew to build up? The answer: frost it. Whether you buy a frosted window pane or DIY the one you have, a frosted window will provide all the privacy you need but keep it easy to clean as well as letting in plenty of sunlight. (via Flickr)

🏠 Ceiling

🚪 ceiling living room

This might be the only place you're going to hear this. The most practical way

to use the space that is your living room ceiling is to put up a ceiling fan. Think about it. Your living room is where your family gathers to rest, where your guests gather to hang out, where all your birthday parties happen, etc.



When a room gets packed full of people, it gets a little

steamy. A ceiling fan will help to cool off the room when it's full of warm bodies and make it comfortable for everyone. But for heavens sake, let your side table lamps do the lighting work. (via The Design Files)



❏ ceiling kitchen

If you're of the opinion that overhead lighting is quite ugly, you're not alone. What do you do though when it comes to lighting your kitchen? Well, there's a trick that we like to call pendant lights. They hang from the ceiling over your counter and workspace to shed some light on whatever you're cooking, all the while staying pretty and adding to the decorative vibes of your kitchen. It's a win for everyone.

❏ ceiling bedroom

So maybe this doesn't exactly go on your ceiling, but who wants overhead lighting in their bedroom? Replace your bright lights with more practical wall sconces above your bedside tables. Or even hang a lightbulb from the ceiling above your pillow. The soft light will do wonders for the feeling of the room. (via Marion WD)

🏠 Floors



🏠 floors living room

Let's talk rugs for a minute. There are so many wonderful bold colorful patterned rugs out there, but to make it work in your home, placement is key. (via My Scandinavian Home)

🏠 floors kitchen

When you're cooking food and splattering sauce and spilling chopped veggies, you don't exactly want fabric or fibers on the floor. (via Wit and Delight)

🏠 floors bedroom

Don't shy away from putting a rug on your bedroom floor just because the space is intimidating. There is a simple solution. (via Apartment Therapy)

🏠 floors bathroom

Balking at the long space in your bathroom? Go for a pretty flat runner instead of separate rugs. It will make the whole room look more streamlined and pull everything together instead of splitting up your shower, toilet and sink spaces. (via Amber Interiors)

Installing Amtico flooring can add a luxurious touch to your home. It is constructed with Luxury Vinyl Tiles (LVT) and can give an opulent look to your floors. Amtico is the popular choice among households in Sydney, NSW – all thanks to its key reasons, such as great durability, stain and water resistant, ease of cleaning and much more. However, this luxurious tile texture deserves special care and regular cleaning to maintain its lustre and shine. Here is a complete guide to help you clean your beautiful Amtico flooring to perfection. It also includes some great ways to protect them from scratches and serious damage. Let's Get Started!



✚ **What Is Amtico Floor Or Flooring?**

It is a high-quality, luxury vinyl tile or flooring that can be installed in your home/office to achieve the visual effect of wood, tile and natural stone without any downsides. You can install it over an existing underfloor heating system with ease.

✚ **How To Perfectly Clean An Amtico Floor?**

There is no rocket science behind cleaning luxury vinyl tiles. Since spills, splatters, and dust happen, it becomes crucial to sweep and mop your floors regularly. Here are the best tips and tricks to help you restore the shine of your amtico flooring like a pro:

1. Tackle Loose Dirt And Debris

You can't escape from dust particles, pet dander, and other allergens after installing Amtico flooring. Of course, it is water and stain-resistant flooring, but you will need to maintain its beauty and shine for years to come. To avoid scratches, you can use a vacuum machine with a soft-bristled brush attachment. It can help you get rid of loose debris with ease. You can also use a dry microfiber mop to achieve shiny outcomes.

2. Mop Your Floors Regularly

You can easily tackle spills and splatters using a wet mop. According to professional end of lease cleaners in Sydney, you should never use white vinegar or any other acidic cleaner as it can cause damage to the surface. So, read the manufacturer's instructions and wet your microfiber mop. Squeeze out excess water and mop your floor in a back-and-forth motion. Regular mopping can prevent the spread of spills, splatters and stains. This makes a huge difference in cleaning a house on a budget. Tip: Never soak the floor because excess moisture can cause damage to your luxury vinyl tiles.

3. Eliminate Stubborn Stains Using Non-Abrasive Products

It is advised to blot the stains or scuffs immediately using a paper towel or a microfiber cloth. Instead of using any harsh chemical cleaner or vinegar, apply a stain remover product designed for Amtico flooring. All you need to do is:

- Spray the solution on the affected area.
- Leave it for a few minutes to let it break down
- Wipe down the surface using a cleaning pad or cloth.
- Repeat the process if required and dry the area.

Note: Never use a steam mop to remove stains and grime. This can lead to serious damage or discolouration.

4. Get Stubborn Paint Off The Floor

There is no denying that Amtico is strong, stain-resistant and durable flooring, but paint spills can ruin its finish. It is good to take it out using proper techniques. You can gently scrape off the paint using a scraper. Make sure you apply water and mild detergent and rub it with a non-abrasive scouring pad. Wipe the surface and dry it completely. So, keep this hack in your post-renovation cleaning checklist to achieve best outcomes.

5. Deep Cleaning Is Important

Amtico Floor Protection Tips to Keep Look Shiny and Intact Below is a quick guide to help you protect your luxury vinyl tiles using simple and effective hacks:

- Avoid placing bulky furniture on the floor to prevent scratches and dents.
- Sweep and Mop the surface regularly.
- Do not use harsh chemicals, white vinegar and other abrasive cleaners. Use specialised products for cleaning. You can also use a magic eraser to tackle stains.
- Remove spills immediately using a clean cloth
- Place mats at high-traffic spots to keep dirt and bay
- Trim the nails of your cat and dog to prevent scratching
- Never use a steam cleaner on the surface
- Maintain Proper humidity in your home
- Avoid direct sunlight
- Wax your Amtico floorings every 3-5 months to maintain their pristine shine.
- Hire professional cleaners to keep your floors clean and shiny.

Keeping an Amtico Floor clean and well-maintained is a smooth process. By following the right methods and this step-by-step guide, you can keep dirt, dust, spills and stains at bay. Make sure you regularly sweep and mop the floor surface with a microfiber mop or cloth. This will help you achieve shiny and luxurious flooring for your home.



📌 decorating living room

Without a doubt, plants are one of the best ways to decorate your living room. Greenery in any room brings such a living and homey feel to the space, but especially in the room where your family and friends gather for coffee and conversation. Large leaved palms can fill an empty corner and a low bowl of succulents can do wonders for your coffee table. Every leaf is worth every penny. (via T Magazine)

📌 decorating bedroom

Dressers and nightstands aren't just for storing clothes and books. They're for providing decorating surface too. Your bedroom is your private place to add your own style. Whether you fill your dresser-top with framed family photos or plants or jewelry dishes or your rock collection, your bedroom decorating should be what you love and what makes you happy. There's nothing better to make you smile every morning. (via M pression)

❏ decorating bathroom

What is usually the focal point of the bathroom? The shower. It's so big, it it can't help itself. Thankfully there are some pretty gorgeous shower curtains to make the space feel more decorative. Go for something large and floral like the one above or if you're looking for a more modern curtain, bold stripes will do the trick as well. Either way, choose the one that you think will make the biggest impression on the rest of your bathroom. (via Apartment Therapy)

❏ decorating nursery

Decorating a nursery is easy peasy. Children already have such colorful books and classy toys and adorable shoes, why put them away to be hidden in a box or bin? A set of shelves can serve as toy and book storage as well as the decorating center of the nursery. (via Mini Style)

Once you've got your landscaping put together and your garden cleaned up and your patio installed, it's time to decide what kind of entertainment you'd like to include. Because if you have anyone over at all, a good host will have something. Whether you have a pool, a fire pit or even a picnic table for al fresco dinner parties, providing something entertaining in your backyard will encourage you to spend more time outdoors, which in turn will help you keep an eye on your landscaping and gardens. It's one of those housework chores that never ends, but is necessary for a lovely home.

4.0 How to Use Basic Design Principles to Decorate Your Home

These decorating rules and principles are simple enough that most anyone can apply them. Your home might not look like a West Elm catalogue, but it'll look presentable.

❏ Follow The Rule of Odd Numbers

You might already be familiar with the rule of thirds for photography. Designing with odd numbers as a foundation can create harmony and visual interest, explains designer Cecilia Walker:

The basic idea of the rule is that details and objects that are arranged or grouped in odd numbers are more appealing, memorable, and effective than even-numbered pairings.



🔍 Find Your Room's Focal Point

A room's focal point is its most emphasized feature. It's the thing your eyes are naturally drawn to when you walk into the room. And everything around the focal point compliments it.



☪ **Know Basic Measurement Rules**

Here are a few general measurements to keep in mind:

- ☑ **Coffee table distance:** Keep at least 15" between coffee tables and sofas, says decorator Maria Killam. Apartment Therapy suggests leaving about 18" between them.
- ☑ **Hanging art:** If you're hanging multiple pieces of art, keep the center point of the whole arrangement at this level.
- ☑ **Hanging curtains:** Crate and Barrel says it's typical to have 1-3" of overlap on either side of your window. For height, they say you should mount curtain rods 4" from the top of the window. But maybe you want your windows to look wider or taller.
- ☑ **TV distance:** How far your TV should be from your sofa will depend on its size. We've talked about viewing distance before. The easiest rule of thumb: multiply the diagonal size of your TV by two. That's about how many inches your tv should be from your seating area.

☪ **Consider Your Negative Space**

Sometimes, less is more. In design, the negative space is the area that's not taken up by any subject. Most commonly, this is the white area on your walls. Its tempting to fill every space with a subject, but sometimes, the negative space speaks for itself. Apartment Therapy explains:



Decorating with negative space can be a bit complicated, but there are a few ways anyone can do it:

- ✓ **Avoid clutter.** This is probably the best and most common way to make the most of negative space. A bunch of stuff might fit perfectly on your table, but that doesn't mean it all needs to go there. Leave some room—some negative space.

❏ **Be intentional.** Make sure the negative space serves a purpose. You might leave a space empty to highlight a decorated area nearby. Or maybe the negative space creates an interesting design.

❏ **Look at shapes.** Home Guides explains that two contrasting shapes can create an odd—or interesting—negative space. "a curved coffee table can soften the harsh negative space lines created by angular sofas and chairs in a square room. But this space plan may not work in smaller rooms, which would force edge of the round table too close to the sofa for comfortable sitting."

To clarify, it's not just about looking for places where you can remove things. It's about looking for spots that look great even when they're empty. It's also about considering the function of the empty spaces between subjects.

🕯️ **Layer Your Lighting**

Lighting could be a whole post in itself, but here's what you should consider when you don't know much about it. First, learn the three basic types of lighting:

❏ **Ambient:** Its also called general lighting, and its the overhead lighting meant to evenly illuminate a room.

❏ **Task:** As its name suggests, task lighting is meant to light a specific task. A lamp in the living room might

light a reading area. Under-cabinet lights in a kitchen serve as task lights for countertops.

❏ **Accent:** Accent lights are meant to highlight a particular object. You might see them on painting, for example.



Beyond these basics, you'll probably also want to make your home look like your own. We've got some tips on how to do that, too. These guidelines help you get started, but you should adjust your decorating according to your own tastes and preferences. Use these rules to get started, but don't be afraid to

break them and go with your instincts if something feels right to you.

5.0 Low Cost Interior Decorating Ideas for All Types of Homes in Sydney



Regardless of the style or influence you choose for your interior décor, the job is not complete until you also add a few accent pieces and until you create a focal point. For that you can adopt all sorts of strategies. Usually the spark is not in what you use to make your

décor stand out but the way you use it. It's the same with the price. Even something low cost can become a splendid decoration if used in an unusual and original way. Those being said, let's now take a look at a few low cost decorating ideas.

🕒 **Hang plates.**

Plates are an interesting alternative for framed artwork. They can usually be found in antique shops and they can be collected over time.

🕒 **Make your own art.**



And since we were just talking about this, another great way of adding some spark to your home's interior is to create your own art.

❖ **Be crafty.**

But painting and displaying the result on the wall is not the only way in which you can contribute to the creation of a unique décor for your home. You can be crafty in many different ways. For example, you can take a piece of wallpaper that you like and frame it, creating an interesting display for the dining room, office, etc.

🕒 **Be natural.**

If you also want to add some freshness into your home and to bring a piece of nature inside, you can opt for more natural solutions. For example, you can recycle some wood to make a simple but charming storage piece for your mudroom or hallway. It would have a rough look and great character.

🕒 **Choose bold colors.**

Of course, color is a very simple way of making something pop. So if you want to change the atmosphere in your home and to make it more dynamic and vibrant, choose bold colors.

Combine them and come up with new ideas, mix different shades and use different patterns and textures to make them stand out.

Final Thoughts

Elegance is about finding a careful balance in your home. An easy way to create a dignified space is through paint – choose understated hues for a calming yet expensive effect.

Lighting and hardware are also important considerations when it comes to improving the overall look of your home. It is easy for these elements to look cheap or stand out for the wrong reasons so look out for high-end materials in antique stores for more affordable prices and pieces that tell a story.

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