

Decorating Your Home

Decorating 101: Expert Tips For Getting Started

(NAPSA)—Whether a recent college graduate renting an apartment for the first time or a newlywed couple about to cross the threshold of a new home, embarking on your first decorating project can be overwhelming. Empty room, white walls, bare floors...it can be as intimidating as an artist staring at a blank canvas not knowing where or how to begin.

Before you tip your easel over in frustration, consider these suggestions from the experts at La-Z-Boy to help maximize your space and make your first time a little less intimidating.

Start with the Sofa

Just like every great painting, each decorating project starts with one key visual and builds from there. The sofa, often the largest furniture piece in a room, can provide inspiration for all of your decorating decisions. For instance, the style and scale of the sofa can help guide other furniture choices, while the upholstery fabric provides the perfect starting point for building a color scheme.

“To begin building a color scheme, simply pick a color from your sofa, along with two complementary colors, and repeat each color a minimum of three times throughout the room in wall coverings, pillows, rugs, window treatments and accessories,” suggests Stephanie DiMarzio, product manager for major upholstery for La-Z-Boy. “This is what we call the Rule of Threes.”

Focus on Function

When you’re just starting out, odds are you’re dealing with somewhat limited funds and, often times, limited space. For these reasons, you may want to look for furnishings that combine fashion with function. A sleep sofa, for instance, performs double duty,



Build the decorative elements of a room around one piece of furniture, for example, a sofa or recliner.

turning any room into an instant guest room. Likewise, many of today’s sectional sofas are available with built-in tables, storage drawers, recliners and even sleepers, allowing buyers to satisfy a variety of needs with one piece of furniture.

“Multi-functional furnishings are ideal for maximizing space,” DiMarzio explains. “By serving more than one purpose, they eliminate the need for additional furnishings, thereby opening up a room and giving the sense of more space.”

Another popular option for tight spaces and budgets is a storage ottoman. More than just a footrest, these designs can serve as additional seating while also providing an ideal place for storing pillows, blankets and toys.

Warning! Objects In Store May Be Larger Than They Appear

It’s happened to the best of us. You visit a furniture store, fall in love with a particular piece and get it home only to discover that it either won’t fit through the door

or it takes up the entire room. The high ceilings and vast floor space in many furniture stores can be very deceiving and give buyers a skewed perspective regarding the size and proportion of the furnishings on display. Be realistic about the amount of space you have to work with and don’t forget to bring a tape measure with you when you shop.

By starting with the sofa, focusing on function, and keeping perspective and proportion in mind while shopping, you’ll be off to a great start and soon have a home that’s a work of art.

For more information about decorating and home furnishings, call 1-800-MAKE-A-HOME to receive a free La-Z-Boy Home Furnishings Kit. The kit includes easy-to-follow steps for room planning and decorating, product information, definitions of common home furnishings terms, a grid and ready-made furniture templates so you can develop your own floor plan. For more decorating ideas, visit www.lazboy.com.