

Decorating for the season

You may just be discovering your style as a couple, but decorating for the seasons, like decorating for every day, is easier and cheaper than you may think.

Here are some helpful hints for creating your seasonal styles:

1. Pick a neutral color palette.

Let your walls and floor act as a canvas to build upon. That doesn't mean you have to choose from 20 shades of white, however. Be bold—choose from muted shades of purple, blue, burgundy or gray—as long as they coordinate with your furniture and other accessories.

2. Consider rearranging the furniture in your space.

Tired of the same old layout? Need to make room for his favorite lounge chair? Rearranging furniture is a free way to give your room an entirely different look. Plus, when new pieces are introduced (when the season or holiday decorating changes), rearranging is the best way to help everything find its place.

3. Choose furniture pieces that can pull double-duty.

Since most couples can't start off in the house of their dreams, getting as much use out of every square foot is key. Find a dual bookcase/desk for your computer area. Add a storage ottoman to your sitting space—not only is it a great place to store magazines and a cozy throw, but it's also perfect for additional seating.

4. Change your windows and rugs when the seasons change.

Keep two sets of curtains and throw rugs on hand throughout the year. As the temperature cools down, switch them out to give your room a warm, cozy feeling. Choose heavier fabrics and a slightly darker palette for fall and winter; this will help your room convey warmth through the colder months. Put out your lighter, brighter window and floor treatments during the spring and summer months to keep things feeling (and looking) cool.

5. Punch up your room with colorful accents.

From lamps to pillows, wall art and more, your room's accessories should bring the space to life with color (especially against the neutral background you've chosen). You could go bold with lime green and black; romantic with pastels; stylish with aqua and brown; bright with red and orange; or patriotic with red, white and blue. Can't decide? Choose a few of your favorite themes, and switch them out as the seasons change.

6. Store your treasures in the off-season.

When it's time to give your room a new look, be sure to pack away your seasonal items in large, clear containers with lids and handles. Wrap your breakables and label each container so your seasonal items can be easily found next time.



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