

Interior Decorating Tips

By Jan Britt

Decorating your home can be one of the best things you can ever do for yourself or your family. You will create a personalized atmosphere or mood within your home that can make everyone happy.

What attitude or mood are you trying to achieve as you enhance your decorating style? Do you want a quiet romantic feeling or a festive feeling? The color you paint your walls and the artwork you choose will help you create your desired decorating style. Decorating has many elements to achieve success. Some of the important features you need to include are the proper furniture and furniture placement, wall color, lighting, flooring, pictures and /or accessorizing, etc.

One of the most important first steps in decorating your home is discovering your color palette. A color palette is a group of colors that are blended together to create a color scheme. You will find these colors for your color palette displayed in fabric, furniture, lighting, area rug, accessories, wallpaper, pictures, artwork or an inspiration piece. After you discover your color palette you will need to ask yourself the following questions.

- What colors should I use from the color palette?
- What fabric (patterned) should I use to complement my original color palette?
- What style of fabric should I use to complement my decorating style?
- What color in the fabric makes the largest impact?
- What impact will that color bring to your room?
- How do I pull the colors together with accessories?

The color palette can be an important factor to help achieve that “WOW” factor you want to feel when you enter the room. It usually comes from art properly placed above furniture and from window treatments or curtains. These items will add color to complement the color palette and decorating style of your room and walls.

Some Helpful Hints in Decorating Your Home

- The largest square footage within your room is your walls. The color on the wall is one factor that will help you create the mood that you are trying to achieve in that room. When you move into a house, never keep a color on the wall that you do not like or feel comfortable with. The paint color on your walls will affect your mood in a positive or negative way.
- If the kitchen is open to the family room and you want the kitchen to appear larger, paint both rooms the same color. This color flow will give the illusion that the rooms are larger than they really are.
- When you are hanging pictures and you find a chip in the wood of the picture frame use the same color of “Rub and Buff” found at hobby type stores to fix it. This product also updates the frame if it has a raised section on the frame like the feeling of Braille. Make sure you use “Rub and Buff” properly. It is very potent and a little will go a long way.
- If you have vertical walls that are over 12 feet tall you may have a difficult time finding art work to fit them. Contacting an interior designer is a wise choice. We have access to retailers that specialize in oversized art work or pictures. You can choose a print or an oil piece of art, then choose a frame to match your décor.
- It is always easier to go shopping to find the perfect picture that matches your color palette and your decorating style. Some people are on a budget and need ideas to save money. One inexpensive way to save money on a picture is to find or buy a print or poster and place the new poster or picture into the existing quality frame you already have. Carefully take the old picture out and replace it with the new poster. You may need to change the existing matting if the color does not match the poster color palette properly. Make sure the new poster has the same color as the color palette within the room. A good website to find a poster is www.art.com. EBay is also a good resource to find posters. You can use a current frame that you already have at home to insert your new poster. Or, you can find a nice frame at a garage sale or at a resale shop. You can change the direction of the frame from horizontal to vertical by changing the direction of the wire or “tooth” on the back of the picture.

- When you are hanging art work or pictures on the wall, hang the pictures above the furniture. The picture will help to complete the look of the furniture and it will pull out the color palette and decorating style. Some walls are blank and are a perfect spot to display a gallery of pictures if desired.
- A good distance to hang the pictures above the couch or bed is 10 to 15 inches. There are always exceptions to this height in hanging pictures.
- Do not hang a picture above the couch or bed that is smaller than half of the width of the couch or bed. The best visual appeal is to hang the pictures (art work, mirrors, etc.) two thirds the size of the couch or bed or a little smaller than the same width of the couch or bed.
- Remove the leaf from your dining room table to make your dining room appear larger. Some chandeliers are made just to fit the size of your current table so taking the leaf out might not look right.
- Try to position your bed so that you are able to see the pillow sham first when you are entering into the bedroom. There will be times where you are not able to do this because the bed will not fit in that area properly. This positioning helps the headboard, pillow shams and comforter/duvet cover to be the “Star of the Show” or the focal point.
- Pillow shams are very important to be placed on your bed by the headboard. Make sure the pillow you insert inside of the pillow sham is plump enough to fill up the entire size of the pillow sham. When the pillow fills the sham it makes the sham look better. Some shams have a flanged section or ruffle around the pillow sham. You can purchase a larger or more expensive puffy pillow that will help the flanged section stand up better. Higher end bed pillows can be more expensive. If you want to save money and recycle at the same time save your old bed pillows. You can cut the top portion of the pillow and push the stuffing of the pillow down to make it shape it into a 18 x 18” or 20 x 20” pillow. Fold the excess fabric over the pillow and hand

sew or glue it shut. Very carefully insert two of those old “dead bed pillows” into a king size pillow sham. The down side of adding these two pillows into one king size sham is it makes the pillow sham heavier to pick up.

- Your master bedroom color palette extends from your bedroom to your master bathroom. The color(s) you choose and the decorating style you choose for your bedroom need to flow into the adjoining bathroom.
- It is best not to remodel or even decorate your bathroom until you know what decorating style and color palette you will be selecting for your master bedroom.
- Once the color palette and decorating style have been selected you will be able to pick out new tile or flooring if desired.
- Coordinating the tile and the counter tops are very important to be selected correctly. It is always wise to get professional help to make these decisions. It costs too much money to make costly mistakes because of the wrong decisions.
- It is always a wise choice to hire an Interior Designer. However, if there is any time you really need to hire an Interior designer it would be to receive professional help with the bathroom and the kitchen.
- Get educated about the variety of choices you can make when you choose a shower head(s) for your bathroom. If you prefer a shower to taking a bath, then a rain shower head is a very popular choice. Regular shower heads shoot water at an angle, this shower head uses gravity by throwing the water at a 90 degree angle. It feels like you are standing in the rain.
- Most of the time standard size counter tops and cabinetry are what you find in a bathroom. There are so many styles of counter tops and cabinetry that it is best to get counsel on the best style and quality that suites you. One of the many things you need to find out is about the quality of the wood. Getting a

better quality of wooden cupboard is a good idea for the master bathroom. It looks better and usually last longer. It is also a positive visual effect during the sale of your home.

Decorating your home requires knowledge, attention to detail, shopping and money. You can decorate your whole house at one time or just decorate one room at a time. After you have your color palette and decorating style established you are able to be so much more efficient. If you choose not to hire a decorator, please do a significant amount of research first before you buy anything so you do not make costly mistakes. Creating a "Storyboard" for each room is the smartest thing to do to ensure you did not forget anything. If you decide not to hire me or someone else, your task will be more time consuming, much more money then you planned on spending and more difficult to complete in a timely manor. I can make a decorating plan for you. I will also take you wholesale shopping to save you money. Please contact me with questions or attend one of my interior decorating classes and I will be happy to help you.