



*Great Ideas
Come in
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Personalizing your new home

One of the biggest challenges after you move into a new home is to make your current furnishings look good in a new environment. This can be a daunting task if your decorating style is radically different from the previous homeowners' or if the architectural style of the new house is not congruent with your furnishings.

Adopting a new color scheme for the interior of the house is the quickest way to infuse the house with your personality. Choose a color palette that enhances your current furniture regardless of the architectural style of the house. For example contemporary furniture can look smashing in a Victorian home with lighter, brighter wall colors. By having the walls painted the color that you enjoy you won't feel so rushed to buy new furniture. Adding throw pillows and accessories in colors similar to the wall color will pull the room together and create visual balance.

Fewer pieces can make a greater impact especially when you scale down to a house with less square footage and to a house with smaller rooms. Selling redundant or oversized furniture pieces at furniture consignment stores or giving them to someone who is setting up housekeeping for the first time will alleviate guilt. Don't dispose-recycle. There are always charities who 'all be glad for the donations if you want a tax write-off.

Some of your favorite art pieces may not work in their previous room settings. Re-framing or re-matting may help them work in different locations in your new house. You may be surprised how moving a favorite piece of art to a new location may give it a greater impact. Banging that first nail into a wall is such a defining moment in "claiming" a new house as truly "yours".

An oversized area rug can "swallow" up a room. If the rug is a solid color you may be able to have it cut down to a better proportion for the room and re-bound for about \$1.50 per linear foot. An area rug placed in the center of the room with the furniture surrounding it will make the room seem smaller than placing all the furniture on the rug. Either way, the area rug will help to absorb the white noise in the room. If you have hardwood or tile floors, make sure that the area rug you're using leaves about 12 to 18in. of border of the flooring showing around the periphery of the room. Corners of the rug should not jut out into major pathways. If opening the door snags on the top of the rug, you'll either need to trim the



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bottom of the door or use a rug with smaller dimensions...

New window treatments may be beyond the budget of some homeowners the first few months after their home purchase. If you are fortunate enough to already have window coverings, you may be able to modify them to suit your taste. A band of fabric that coordinates with your furniture can be added to the valance. Valances with pleats or ruffles can be remade in new designs using the same fabric. Cornice boards (wooden fabric-covered valances) can be cut into new shapes and recovered with a more appropriate fabric. Inexpensive pleated paper shades (about \$12.00 for 36" wide X 72" long) can provide privacy until your budget allows for the purchase of the window coverings you really want. Having window film applied at a cost of about \$10.00/sq.ft. is a wise first investment in covering those windows which admit a great deal of direct sunlight. With tinted windows you'll decrease both the glare and the entrance of damaging ultra violet rays into the room which fade your furnishings.

If the counter surfaces are a color or substrate you don't like but you can't replace them immediately, use a trick used by stagers of homes for resale: add bright-colored accessories (canisters, towels, etc.) to draw your eyes away from the counter surface and thereby decrease its visual impact on the room.

Having trouble imagining how to arrange your furniture in your newly configured rooms? Before you move in put tape on the floor in the outline of the proposed furniture lay-out. Now check to see if you can easily walk from one side of the room to the other. Are the doorways easily accessible? If you see a problem it's easier to move the tape than to move the furniture!

Live in the home for three to six months before you embark on any major renovations. You may discover that the things that really annoyed you when you first moved in aren't all that significant any longer. Conversely, a small inconvenience may be the impetus to begin a remodeling project of removing a wall, enlarging a doorway or constructing built-in storage.

Many people get bogged down with the fear that any changes they make to a home will negatively affect its future re-sale value. Relax. It's your home now. Make the changes you want now, so you can have maximum enjoyment of the house for the years you live in it.

Now when you open your front door you can say with conviction, "Welcome to our home. We love it! "

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