

(Style on a Dime) Want a new look in an old space? Follow the 4 furniture placement tips

Written by Marcia Humphrey
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Have you grown bored with the room in your home where you spend the most time? Are you dreaming of a makeover, but realize that it's just not in the budget anytime in the foreseeable future? I want to let you in on a little secret. You may be able to easily give your tired-looking space a fresh new look by simply rearranging the furniture. That's right, friend, you don't have to spend money to add that special touch to your favorite spot. By using simple furniture arrangement and placement guidelines, you can have a new look within a couple of hours!

Tip 1: Empty the room.

In order to get a fresh perspective you must clear out the room completely and start with a blank canvas. To make this a one-man or one-woman job, I recommend you use a pack of furniture sliders and place them underneath all of your large, heavy items for ease of movement. Also, take up any area rugs that may be on the floor and remove window treatments. Now you are ready to become inspired with a new look!

Tip 2: Consider the room's focal point.

Do you have a fireplace, a scenic view, or plasma television that you want to highlight? Arrange the furniture so that your favorite thing(s) gets the spotlight.

Tip 3: Place largest piece first in the room first.

Decide the best spot for your sofa or bed (or piano), by experimenting. Try the piece in a few different locations to help determine your favorite. Also, here is where I must dispel one myth about furniture placement: you CAN place a sofa (or a bed) in front of a window (in most cases). So if you like it there, then go for it! After finding a home for the largest item, decide where you will place the remaining pieces working from largest to smallest.

Tip 4: Keep Function in mind.

When placing your favorite reading chair in the room, make sure that it is paired with a reading lamp and table for your coffee cup and eyeglasses. In addition, if your goal is to have comfortable seating that promotes conversation, bring the sofa and chairs closer together. Resist the urge to situate all the furniture along the walls. Placing a rug in the center of a sofa and two chairs is an ideal way to anchor the seating area. If possible have a table within reach

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of most seating so that drinks have a place to sit, too. Generally, you don't want the room so filled with furniture that you have no room to easily move about, nor do you want furniture blocking the room's entry. Sometimes less is more.

When the seasons change, that's usually my clue to change something. Yet change doesn't always have to cost money. Sometimes giving your old furnishings a new perspective is all that is needed. You'd be surprised at how much contentment there is in discovering a fresh perspective-in decorating and in life. Try it, you just might like it! Enjoy!

Marcia Humphrey is an interior decorator and home stager who specializes in achieving high style at a low cost. A native of Michigan, she and her husband, Lonnie, have three children.