

Special Edition

THE **7** MOST COMMON DECORATING MISTAKES AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

- KEY MEASUREMENTS
- INSIDER TIPS AND TRICKS
- TRADE SECRETS



The most common mistakes are...

- ~ using the wrong bulbs
- ~ having only overhead lighting

1

Lighting

The quality of light, the colors, and the entire mood of a room is greatly affected by the light bulbs you choose. Fluorescent bulbs always render the most unflattering and generally depressing light. LED bulbs come in a variety of color temperatures, and people mistakenly think the ones labeled “daylight” will be the cheeriest when in fact these emit a bluish white cast that is nearly as bad as fluorescent lighting. While my preference is halogen or incandescent for the most pleasant light, if you must use LED’s, at least aim for a warmer temperature light. Living spaces with only overhead recessed fixtures are also less attractive. Overhead lights cast faces in shadow and feel a bit like an operating room. At the very least add dimmers so you can control the intensity of light, but also add floor and table lamps to living spaces for a more pleasant atmosphere.



2

Furniture Placement

The most common mistakes are...

- ~ furniture lined up along the walls
- ~ seating pieces placed too far apart

Furniture should be placed in seating groups - if the chairs and sofa could comfortably converse, then so could the people sitting in them. Eight feet is a maximum comfortable conversation distance. If your furniture is all against the walls on opposite sides of the room, you are going to have to shout to be heard. Some larger rooms need more than one seating group. PLEASE don't line your furniture up around the edges so it looks like a waiting room. And never line up varying case pieces like high and low dressers next to each other - these should be placed on different walls if at all possible, or opt for a single large piece instead.



3

Accessorizing

The most common mistakes are...

- ~ an overabundance of family pictures all printed in the same size scattered over every surface
- ~ collections of small items and tchotchkes distributed randomly throughout the room

Consider creating a gallery wall somewhere in your home where you can enjoy your family photos and limit yourself to 3 or 5 in varying sizes and orientations for pleasing tabletop displays. Mass your collection of small items into a statement by grouping them together on a tray for more impact. Edit your accessories so you are displaying only your very favorite items. You'll enjoy them more AND have less to dust!



4 Art Placement

The most common mistakes are...

- ~ hanging artwork too high
- ~ hanging frames too far apart
- ~ hanging items that are too small for the space

Artwork should relate to the things around it. Hang pieces over a table or sofa or mantel no more than 8" to 12" above the surface. If this leaves too large a gap between the piece and the ceiling, add another item. Fill at least 2/3 of the width of the space. If hanging artwork or photographs in a group, hang them no more than 3" to 6" apart depending on the sizes of the pieces - the larger each piece, the farther apart they can be.

5 Hanging Curtains

The most common mistakes are...

- ~ curtains that are too short
- ~ curtain panels and valances that are hung on the window frame

Curtain panel hems should at least skim the floor, though a half inch break on the floor is ideal. For very formal billowing drapes, puddled on the floor can be a luxurious look. Panels and valances should be hung higher than the window frame when possible. In standard 8' ceiling (or lower) rooms, hanging them up just under the crown molding will instantly give the room the impression of more height. Upsizing the length of the rod so that panels extend 6" - 8" past the window on each side will give the impression of more generous windows and allow in more light.

6 Area Rug Size

The most common mistake is...

- ~ area rugs that are too small

Getting the size right is essential! Area rugs under a dining table should be 2' larger than the table in all directions, so a 4' x 6' table should top a rug that is 8'x10'. This is so that the chairs can be pulled out and pushed in without catching on the edges of the rug. Area rugs in a seating area should be large enough so that AT LEAST the front legs of all the seating pieces are on the rug. Full room area rugs should leave about 12"-18" of floor showing around the edges depending on the size of the room. Sometimes this requires a custom sized rug and there are many options for this from inexpensive seagrass up to custom silk blends.

The most common mistakes are...

- ~ choosing your color from a tiny chip
- ~ not testing the color in the space it is going

7

Paint Color Selection

Do not EVER buy your paint after only picking a pretty shade from the 1" chip in the paint store lighting! You must test the paint in your space, against a neutral background, and see it at different times of day and in all the different lights that will be in the space. You also must take into account other 'colors' in the permanent features of the room - the wood, stone, or brick, tones - we don't often think of these things as colors, but they are and they will affect how your paint colors look. For step by step guidance, purchase our paint selection guide [HERE](#).



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