

Top Tips

There are some 'mistakes' I see regularly when I visit peoples homes – these are fixes to some of the most common ones – *Marie Grainger, Senior Designer, Apiffany Interior Design Ltd*

- Don't be tempted to 'dot' small collectables around the room – group them together for more impact.
- If you have a large art collection – hang pictures in 'theme groups' i.e. – all figurative pictures together, all landscapes together etc.
- A common mistake is to hang pictures too high - hang art at eye level – they can be better appreciated and become more a part of the overall scheme.
- Always choose appropriately sized furniture – a bulky sofa in a small flat will overwhelm the space, consider instead a 2 seat sofa with low back and arms.
- A good visual trick in small rooms is to leave as much of the floor visible as possible. An example would be to choose a wall mounted basin rather than a model with a pedestal for a small bathroom.
- Don't line your furniture around the room with their backs to the wall. If you have the space – pull sofas away from the walls and create intimate seating groups.
- If you love your open plan living area but feel the individual areas need defining - floor rugs are a great solution.
- If you're working to a budget buy simple timeless items of furniture and add style with some designer cushions or gorgeous throws.
- To save money and still create an impact - buy plain curtains and trim them with a beautifully patterned silk fabric.
- If you have opted for a monochrome colour scheme – add interest with lots of texture otherwise the scheme can have a tendency to look a little flat. The more diverse the better – think chunky corduroy and delicate organza.
- Balance is important in a room – so unless you're defining an area – avoid grouping a single colour or pattern in one area – distribute them around the room in varying proportions.
- Rooms come to life with bold statements. If you have a very contemporary scheme – think about adding a beautiful antique in a surprising place.
- Be imaginative with lighting. Inset floor lights are a great way of highlighting architectural features, plants or art.
- Bring the outdoors in – add flowers to every room. Informally arranged wildflowers are great in an English country style home or single stems artfully arranged for a contemporary look.