

# 10 SIMPLE TIPS TO accessorize your home



After putting away the paint cans and moving your beautiful pieces into your newly redesigned room, you might think that it's time to sit down and enjoy your space – well, think again! You haven't accessorized yet. Accessorizing is like putting a cherry on the cake – it doesn't look (or taste) as good until you have done it!

by Yanic Simard



## 1 Pillows add life to furniture

Bare and bland furniture can be brought to life just by adding some pops of colour and comfort with the use of toss cushions. Throw pillows are a great way to experiment with pattern and colour, and are easy to change when you're ready for something new.

## 2 Play with texture

Experimenting with texture is a very important tip when it comes to a nicely-decorated room. It's not only about playing with different fabrics, but different finishes as well. A room that has varying textures is more interesting, and will help take the eye around the room rather than having it focus on one spot. I like to mix wood, glass, metal and painted pieces all together in one space.

## 3 Use mirrors

Incorporating mirrors to any décor is a great way to finish off a room. Mirrors make the room appear larger, reflect light and add a hint of sparkle to the space. The larger the mirror, the greater the effect will be. Floor-standing mirrors are a personal favourite of mine.



**LEFT:** Adding period pieces adds character to your room. **BELOW LEFT:** Touches of blue are a great way to accessorize your room. **BELOW RIGHT:** If you have many small pieces of artwork, it is best to group them together in the same area rather than spread them out.



**4 The colour blue**

You will never go wrong when accessorizing if you stick within a blue colour palette. Stay within the blue family, keep it simple and monochromatic, using different and as many or as few shades of it as you want.

**5 Enhance what you already have**

Even the most beautiful pieces of furniture need to be decorated to feel more warm and inviting. For example, with a foyer console table you can decorate the underneath area of it to warm up the look. Slide two small ottomans or stools in, and decorate the tops of them. Decorate with small accessories like boxes and trays, and with books. Don't forget to decorate the top of the console too with accent pieces that coordinate.

**6 Vary your heights**

When styling, you will create more visual interest by using decorative pieces that stand at varying heights. Having everything at the same level creates much less interest.

**7 Add mid-century pieces**

Every room should have at least one mid-century

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piece of furniture in it, in my opinion. I like it when rooms look like they've taken years to put together, even if they really haven't. In your living room, you can have a modular sofa, but take the décor to the next level by bringing in one or two Chiavari chairs.

### 8 Position artworks at eye level

People often take a step back when it comes to artwork, because they are unsure of how to position it on the walls. A general rule to go by is that the middle of the artwork should be at eye level. Artwork should be hung no more than five to eight inches above a sofa, and seven to ten inches above a table. If you're still not confident, just resting your artwork on a surface and having it lean against a wall can look just as nice. If you've got a lot of small art pieces, I would suggest grouping them together. If you've got large pieces, they should be hung separately.

### 9 Lighting is key to ambience

Lighting will make or break the overall ambience or impact the décor can have in a room. Adjustable pot lights on a dimmer switch are always a good option because the lights can be positioned to highlight or draw the eye away from a particular area. A dimmer switch is a great added feature, helping set the mood that you are trying to achieve without having to make it a full-time commitment.

### 10 Fresh flowers add a finishing touch

Flowers are the finishing touch to any space. You can never have too many fresh flowers in your home. You can make your own floral arrangements by combining tall branches and a few stems of in-season flowers, such as lilacs. It's especially nice to put flowers into your space when you're expecting company. Flowers as simple as white tulips can cheer up any room, and they'll give your home a nice scent too. **W**