

Giving your Living Room an **INSTANT MAKEOVER**



Yanic Simard
Brandon Barre photo

Haven't got the funds to give your living room the overhaul that it desperately needs? I've got three tips will help give you a fully-decorated designer look without having to spend a fortune – or any money at all!

1. ACCESSORIES

Accessorizing is the way to add personality into your space. You don't need to go shopping, take a look around your home for items you already have in other rooms. Blow the dust off those boxes in the basement and I'm sure you'll find a few great treasures you forgot you had. If you do decide that you want to go out shopping for some new pieces, be sure to set a strict budget for yourself of

\$200-\$300; you'll be amazed at how much you can get if you shop strategically! **Tip:** You'll never go wrong with glass or reflective (such as mirrored) pieces, they can blend with any style.

2. THE COFFEE TABLE

People often under-accessorize coffee tables, and to this day, I've never figured out why. Most of your energy should be focused here since this piece of furniture is normally placed in the centre of the room. Again, collect items from around the home. If your coffee table is a square or rectangular shape, try breaking it into 4 sections and finding a piece or two for each section. **Tip:** The kitchen can be a great place to find coffee table items ... that pretty bowl you never use, a nice tray you have stored away.

3. FURNITURE

Matching furniture sets don't sit well with me. I like when rooms look like they've taken years to pull together, even when they haven't. Swap out a piece or two

from your set for a piece or two from other rooms. Changing the layout of the room will create a huge difference. Try out a few different arrangements on paper (to save yourself from the exhaustion of moving everything around 10 different times) and when you find one that works well and has a good traffic flow put it in place. It will be like walking into a brand new space!

- > You can catch my popular segment 'Instant Makeover' on Citytv's CityLine!
- > Watch CityLine weekdays at 9am on Citytv.

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