

Decorating do's and don'ts



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THE DESIGN FEED

Design is all about getting creative, breaking rules, and finding that secret 'je ne sais quoi' that makes a room just 'work.'

But then, sometimes you just want to take a brain break and rely on a few tried-and-true do's and don'ts! Here are five of my top 'do's' to get you creating with confidence, and five 'don'ts' to steer you away from decor disasters.

DO pile on pillows. Non-committal accents such as pillows (and throw blankets or other small accessories) are an excellent way to add colour, variety and personality, without a long-term commitment and with plenty of opportunity to switch up your look between seasons. Grab one-off pillows instead of sets for more mix-and-match fun.

DON'T make everything the focus. Not every piece has to be attention-grabbing. Texture is important in a space, and sometimes all you need an accessory to be is subtle and tactile rather than a bold hue. Don't forget to include contrasts such as rough vs soft (like jute vs silk), shiny vs matte (like velvet vs plain cotton) and organic vs man-made (like wood vs metal).

DO use one colour all over. Using one shade as an all over base for your walls, trim and ceiling gives a beautifully simple base to support the rest of your furnishings, as well as visually correcting flaws such as sloped ceilings or worn-in moulding. I often use Benjamin Moore's Classic Gray for a sense of consistency throughout a home.

DON'T trust a paint chip. A small paint chip can't give you a proper sense of how a hue will look in a room. Test a small sample of a few colours in wide brush strokes on a wall to really see it in "real life".

DO go full size. It can be tempting to opt for all compact furnishings in today's small-obsessed market but embracing a few full-sized pieces can actually make a room feel larger and more satisfying. Choose a full sized sofa and then save space if necessary with compact chairs or stools.

DON'T overfill. Learn to be comfortable with some negative space, and don't overfill until no square footage remains untouched. If you've chosen a beautiful wall colour, it's okay to leave some surface unfilled with art. Leave room in your floor plan for ease of movement, and don't fill empty shelves or corners with pieces you don't love.

DO upgrade big-box items. Big-box store furnishing can be part of even a high end decor: simply adapt them by upgrading details like hardware. For example, switch out the knobs on an inexpensive cabinet for a high-low mix.

DON'T spread your budget thinly. Investing in moderately priced pieces across the board will create a less satisfying look than the occasional splurge (balanced with some saving). Don't be scared to get a few pieces you really love!



Non-committal accents and accessories are an excellent way to add colour, variety and personality.

DO love white bedding. Simple white bedding gives a bedroom an instant hotel-fresh appeal, and you can always add a little personality with some plush accent pillows (see above) and by

upgrading your headboard. Add a few euro pillows (20"x20") behind your main pillows for that luxe look.

DON'T get matchy-matchy. Bedrooms should be peaceful but that doesn't

have to mean boring. Don't settle for an all-matching furniture set — your tables, chest of drawers, and bedframe don't need to match. Get creative instead with contrasting sidetables and lamps.

— *Is any one of these 'do's' and 'don'ts' for you? If so, find Yanic Simard on Instagram or Twitter at @yanicsimard. For more interior inspiration and design help, visit tidg.ca.*

QUICK BITES

1. Add non-committal accessories for colour and life but don't forget that some accents can be plain hues and just add texture.

2. Use a singular paint shade all over for a uniform base, but try it out properly first with a large test area on a wall.

3. Choose a few full size pieces (like a large sofa or bed) and then don't overfill the room with unnecessary clutter.

4. Embrace a high-low mix with some inexpensive "saves" and some total splurges.

5. Use clean white bedding for a timeless hotel look but then get creative by mixing up the other furnishings.



Simple white bedding gives a bedroom instant, hotel-fresh appeal.