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A modern living room interior. In the foreground, a light-colored sofa with a textured cushion is partially visible. Behind it, a wooden sideboard with a cane screen is topped with a potted plant and a lamp. The floor is covered with a textured rug.

Your ultimate LIVING ROOM decoration checklist

1/The layout: the first element to determine

Spend time on this first step, and you will never have to change a thing in your living room!

✓ **Determine the essential spots of your living room**

Which are the important spots of your living room? The ones you will use and will need to have access to every day?

At least your sofa and your accent chair.

Depending on the use you have of the room, it can be a desk, a dining table, a console where you store important things, etc.

So, create a list of all the essential functions and therefore important spots you will need to have access to in your living room.



✓ **Define how to go from spot A to spot B**

These spots will determine your layout, as you need to have a clear pathway between each of these spots.

Don't block the flow. You need to be able to travel seamlessly inside your space.

✓ **Don't about forget details**

Be sure to think about everything you will do in your living room.

And for every activity, think about what's essential.

For instance, if you use your space as a dining room too, be sure to place the dining area closer to the kitchen.

Think about the reflections your windows will create on your TV screen or your computer when placing them.

If you install your desk in your living room, think about your background during Zoom calls.

Spend time on this step, don't rush yourself, and you'll be 100% sure to have a perfect layout, appropriate to your personal use of the space.



2/ The style: select your vibe before purchasing anything

Don't run to Westelm website without defining your style. Buying everything without a clear guideline is the surest way to redo everything in a few months.

✓ What is your personal vibe?

Do you prefer a cozy vibe with an accumulation of accessories, colors, and textures? Or do you prefer an uncluttered and clean space?

✓ What atmosphere do you want to create?

Is this a formal space, where you will receive a lot of people? Is this a cozy space just for you?





✓ **What colors do you like?**

Do you prefer warmer colors or cooler ones?

Do you prefer a neutral space, and go for white, cream, or grey?

Or do you like the energy of a colorful living room?

✓ **Where do you live?**

Even if you don't absolutely need to respect a consistency between the area you live in and your decoration, creating a coastal vibe if you live in the Catskills might be kind of weird.

You may like it for some time, but you will surely want to change within a few months.

But no need to respect 100% your area style. It's not because you live in a loft in Brooklyn that you have to apply the industrial style. On the contrary, breaking the pattern is often an excellent recipe for a beautiful decor!

✓ **What is your budget?**

Please, don't choose a style only based on a budget!
But sometimes, it can help you exclude a style that would be too expensive for your budget.

A maximalist vibe, for instance, will require a lot more money than a japandi one.



These are some, but not all, of the questions you can ask yourself before starting.

Whatever vibe you choose, don't be stuck in one style, feeling the need to apply every rule.

This is your home, not an academic essay about the principles of boho design.

Be playful, break the rules, add unexpected elements to your decoration.

Nothing is more boring than doing exactly what the books are telling you to do!

Add your personal touch, your character to your living room, and you will always feel at home!

3/ The sofa: the most important element of your living room

Go timeless and neutral for this expensive piece of furniture.

✓ **Determine the correct size and shape**

The size of your sofa should be adapted to the size of your living room. Nothing too small or too big. Be sure that your sofa doesn't touch both walls of your living room.

If you have a large space, feel free to go for a sectional. If you have a smaller living room, avoid the sectional and instead go for a classic sofa.

If you have a small space, choose a sofa with legs to leave a maximum of the floor visible. And always prefer low and clean lines.





✓ **Choose the appropriate color**

In case of doubt, go neutral (white, cream, grey, blush, light blue, or green).

If playful + sure about your choice, go all-in.

Be sure to insert the color in your color scheme, but no need to be monochromatic. You can have an all-white living room with a pink sofa.

Avoid patterns, or go for super simple ones, like stripes.

✓ **Select the appropriate material**

If you have children or pets, take it into consideration. Choose materials that are easy to clean, and prefer removable covers. Trust me, it will change your life!

✓ **Go for a timeless style**

You are going to spend money on your sofa, so be careful not just to follow a trend that will eventually pass in a few months.

You want your sofa to last for a few years.

I always advise to opt for:

✓ **timeless colors:**

maybe purple isn't the best choice for you, except if this has been your style for years

✓ **timeless and elegant materials:**

are you sure about this cheap shiny fabric?

✓ **classic shapes:**

avoid bulky and complicated designs

You will be able to accessorize your sofa later with pillows and blankets. They are easier and cheaper to switch when you want to change your style or color scheme.





✓ **Don't forget to benchmark**

You are going to spend money on your sofa, so be careful before buying it.

If you can see and try it in a store, it's better. You can always order it online after that. But sitting on it, touching the fabric, and checking the color live is always a great idea.

If you can't, check all the reviews you can. Only choose a sofa with 4 stars or more. And don't choose one with no reviews if you didn't see it IRL.

✓ **Spend money**

It's an essential item, so don't save on your sofa.

You want something comfortable and beautiful.

Having an uncomfortable sofa is the worst!

Or a cheap-looking one that you will want to change in 2 weeks because you just can't stand it anymore!

4/ The accent chairs: the playful friends of your sofa

Be original but consistent with your overall decor.



✓ **Apply the same principles as for your sofa**

Keep in mind the tips about choosing your sofa (choose the appropriate size and material, don't forget to benchmark before purchasing...).

But you can be more playful: accent colors, funny patterns, original shapes ... Don't be shy. Create a focal point with your accent chair!

✓ **Go for original colors**

Just be sure it fits your color scheme (if you have a mix of blue and yellow touches, a pink accent chair may not be the best choice).

If you have a monochromatic color scheme (only one color), or a black&white scheme, feel free to make the chair pop with an accent color.

✓ **Be playful in your choice but consistent with the vibe of your living room**

You can use the accent chairs to create a focal point, but remain consistent with your overall style.

If you have a coastal vibe, don't add a pink velvet armchair.





5/ The rug: your best friend to define your space of your sofa

Don't skip this part. The rug will give a finished look to your living room and define your space clearly.

Use at least one area rug under your sofa and coffee table. If you have a massive living room with different dedicated spaces (living room, dining room, desk, reading corner etc...), you may use extra rugs to define each of them clearly.

Be careful not to cover the whole floor, or you will miss the purpose of installing a rug.

And you know what? Rugs are your best friends when it comes to hiding ugly floors that you can't change in your rental!

6/ The coffee table: a crucial element of your decoration

The coffee table will often be the center of your room.

Sitting on your rug, between your sofa and your TV stand, it will also be an essential part of your home decor.

The accessories you will install on your coffee table will set the mood of your overall vibe.

✓ The shape

If you have a narrow or rectangular living room, choose a rectangular or oblong coffee table.

If you have a larger room and space between your sofa and your media unit, you can go for a round or square table that will fill the space.

✓ The size

Choose an appropriate size for the space: not too big (that will overwhelm the area), but not too small either (that will make the room feel awkward and empty).

Tip: choose a table which length is approximately $\frac{2}{3}$ of the sofa's length.





✓ **The style**

Except if you want your coffee table to be your focal point, keep it neutral.

Choose a classic shape, and neutral colors and materials (natural wood, marble, brass...).

The coffee table shouldn't grab all the attention.

✓ **How many?**

In case of doubt, go for only one coffee table. It's the most versatile installation, and it is perfectly adapted to smaller spaces.

If you have a massive space and a decorative style that goes well with accumulation (like boho), you can pair 3 side tables.

Be sure to choose different heights.

Finally, you can use 2 square coffee tables installed side by side to create a bigger rectangular one.

7/ The media unit: stay classic

This is not the moment to be playful

The media unit is not the most exciting part of your decoration, don't use it to create a focal point. Prefer the sofa, accent chairs, or wall art.

Choose a TV stand that will blend in the overall vibe you created: a stand with rattan doors if you have a boho style, a metallic unit if you have an industrial style, a white lacquered media stand if you have a modern style, etc...

Choose a media unit adapted to your room's size and the size of your TV.

You can choose to install only your TV on the media unit. In that case, be sure to have at least 8 in of clearance on each side of the TV.

If you have a longer unit, use it to install decoration: a plant, a few books, decorative objects, etc...

Finally, be sure to have at least one part of the TV stand dedicated to close storage. Nothing uglier than cables and internet boxes. So choose one where you can hide all those things.



8/ Art: it's time to get personal

Choosing what to hang on your wall is one of the best ways to show your personality.

Remember to respect balance in your room, and select the size of your wall art carefully. Too big will overwhelm your living room, but too small will appear very alone on your wall.

No need to hang art on every wall. Choose strategically. Art will help you create a focus on one spot.

3 important spots to hang it: above the sofa, above the TV, and above the accent chairs

If you have a neutral living room, feel free to go all-in with your selection.

If you already have a lot of colors and items in your space, try to remain consistent in your choice by selecting art that will fit the overall mood.

Try repeating a pattern you already have in your living room or echoing colors you already use, for instance.

Apart from that, there is nearly no rule for art. It should bring you joy, either because it's beautiful, or because it reminds you of a trip, a moment in your life etc...

9/ Lighting: let's layer

Like the layout, think about the uses you will have for this room before buying anything.

You will need at least 2 different sources of lighting:

- the primary source of light, often a chandelier, or a floor lamp
- an accent light, like a table lamp

This is if you only use your living room precisely as your living room.



If you also use it as an office, add another table lamp to your desk.

Add a chandelier or a floor lamp next to the table if it's also a dining room.

Layering different light sources will add coziness to the space and allow you to create different vibes according to the light you choose to turn on or off.

And like art, the light fixtures can be a great way to express your personality.

A stunning chandelier can be the focal point of your living room.

Again, stay consistent: if you have a neutral and classic living room, you can choose nearly whatever light fixture you want.

If you already have a very original, colorful, and decorated living room, go for classic shapes and colors to avoid stealing the impact of your other focal points.



10/ Decoration: the final touch

When you have determined the layout, the vibe, and the furniture, it's time to decorate.

A living room will never have a finished touch without accessories.



✓ **The pillows and blankets: your budget-friendly buddies**

To avoid switching your sofa whenever you feel like changing your living room decoration, go pillows and blanket shopping!

You can find beautiful affordable options, and they will totally switch the vibe of your room.

If you have a neutral and timeless sofa, it's time to add some color, texture, and pattern to your living room!

Feel free to choose original pillows and blankets. Worst case scenario? You will need to change them in a few weeks.

It's better than replacing your sofa, right?

✓ **Plants: the essential green touch**

Super personal advice alert: I can't imagine a living room without plants!

They add a touch of life to your space, are a beautiful decoration, and are super satisfying to take care of!

And you know what? Planters shopping is one of my favorite activities on Earth!

You will find tons of beautiful and original options to style and finish your living room.

But owning plants is a commitment. So be sure to check the requirements of the plant before purchasing it!



✓ **Coffee table books: Let's give an upscale look to this table**

Coffee table books are one of the best accessories to give this finished aspect to your living room.

Style your coffee table with 2-3 books.

Choose subjects and images that reflect your personality.

In addition to being great decor accessories, it's a perfect way to show who you are and start a conversation!

✓ ... And so many other accessories!

Don't limit yourself to this little list. The world of accessories is nearly unlimited!

Think about candles, trays, decorative objects, sculptures, mirrors, dried flowers, etc...

Decorate and enjoy!

Try to remain balanced with your vibe: don't accumulate decorative objects if you have a decluttered decoration.

And on the contrary, don't forget to add tons of accessories if you want to create a cozy vibe.



I hope you liked these tips about decorating your living room.

Are you ready to go further and create the perfect decoration for your space?

Check my services here, or contact me so we can chat about your project.



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