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Interior DESIGNER SECRETS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Photography By **Stephani Buchman**

Ever wonder how rooms in magazines look so perfect? We're sharing our favourite interior designer secrets with you, so that you can make your home a little more perfect too! Here are four of our favourite designer secrets.

TEST YOUR PAINT COLOURS

We never suggest committing to a paint colour from looking at a little chip. Ideally, it's best if you can prime all the walls and then test a few of your favourite colours by painting 24" x 24" sections on a couple of walls in your room. If you can't do that then we suggest painting a few large pieces of thick card stock and shuffle them around the room. Live with things for a few days and have a look at the colours at various times during the day – Lighting changes how colours can look, so better to be safe than sorry.

AVOID BUYING FURNITURE SETS

Never purchase a set of furniture where the sofa, love seat, and chairs all have the same upholstery. It can look too matchy, whereas mixing your upholstery will give a much nicer and more layered look. Same goes for the bedroom – Avoid buying a matching set and opt for a more curated look by selecting a variety of pieces.

LINE YOUR DRAPERY

A lot of people buy ready-made drapery from big box stores and wonder why they don't hang like they do in the photos from the home decor magazines. Of course, custom drapery is going to fit and look much better, but if custom is not in your budget just be sure they are lined. Lining adds the extra weight to the fabric that is needed to hang nicely.

USE THE RIGHT PILLOW INSERTS

Want your decorative pillows to be perfectly plump? Be sure to use feather inserts that are a bit larger than your

pillow cover. Poly pillow inserts always look too stiff and never have a nice shape to them, and feather inserts are often not stuffed enough to give the right fullness. By using feather inserts that are an inch or so larger than the cover, you're sure to have magazine-worthy looking pillows. ♦



STACI EDWARDS, is the owner of her Toronto-based interior design firm with clients in both Canada and the U.S. and her work is nationally published and award-winning. She encourages her clients to live easier and more beautiful lives by creating well designed, welcoming spaces, that are both livable and luxurious.

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