

Choosing Living Room Furniture Like a Pro

We've all had the same awkward experience: You're invited to a neighbor's house so they can show off their recent living room remodel. You walk in the door and your eyes immediately land on the oversized furniture arranged so only a small child or perhaps a pair of ferrets could navigate it. You pause, trying to manufacture extra eye fluid to help shield your retinas from the loud and busy patterns that dress the ridiculously large L-shaped sofa, and finally do your best to "ooh and aah" their décor choices.

Don't be these people. There are a few simple steps you can take to make sure your furniture selection reflects *your* home and not a funhouse.

Plan Your Layout First

Planning your layout first will ensure you don't buy pieces that are too large or too small for the space. Use some painter's tape or masking tape to mark where you would like your sofa, tables and loveseat to go. Make sure to take into account the space between pieces so you can easily walk around.

Don't feel the need to be satisfied with your first arrangement. The tape will easily come up and you can try multiple arrangements until you find the one that allows for your desired pieces as well as easy navigation.

The Power of Neutral

Many people make the tragic mistake of trying to add color to the room by selecting bold, patterned upholstery fabric. A much wiser choice is to keep your furniture fabric in neutral tones and add color with accessories such as throw pillows and artwork.

Also, going with neutral tones will allow your room to evolve with time. You may find your tastes change in a few years and you want a more modern feel. Having neutral furniture means you can easily keep these pieces and simply update the room by selecting fresh paint, window treatments and other accessories.

Consider Your Budget

Furniture is not something you want to skimp on. Decide before you even plan your room how much you'll have to spend and then use most of this on a few quality pieces. Your first consideration should be to your seating, as that will receive more wear and tear than tables. You can easily replace lower quality tables in the future.

Choosing furniture for your living room does not have to be difficult. Simply plan first, stay neutral and invest in quality pieces and you'll be the talk of the town instead of the laughing stock of the neighborhood.