

BE WARM AND WELCOMING

Accessorize your home with these decor must-haves



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"Home" comes in as many different shapes and sizes as there are types of people out there, and each is unique. But there is at least one thing that all homes have in common: that sense of warmth and belonging you feel when you walk through the door.

If your home doesn't do that for you, something's missing. Whether you're decorating from scratch, or your current space is lacking, here are four basic essentials to revisit, from top to bottom.

RUG

This one sounds simple enough. Just pick one online or at the shop, and drop it on the floor, right? Not exactly. Area rugs bring physical comfort and visual interest to a room, with endless options for colour and texture. A rug can also visually ground a room, or help define different "zones" within an open-concept area.

When choosing an area rug, consider the overall style of your home - contemporary, traditional, transitional, whatever it may be, and stay true to this aesthetic. From a more practical perspective, bear in mind the rug's make, material and durability, which will impact its longevity and price.

Designer tip: Choose a rug that's large enough to accommodate all the key furnishings within the room or area. For example, your dining table and chairs, or the living room coffee table, sofa, chairs and side tables. Furnishings that don't fit on the rug will look out-of-place.

SEATING

Seating is a recurring piece in virtually every room in the home, so it warrants some special attention. Put function first, how do you use the room, and specifically, the seating in it?

Will you be seated for long periods of time, and what will you be doing? Dining, desk work, reading, or watching television all have unique requirements. Will the chair see some wear and tear? Should the upholstery be washable and dura-

ble? Style should also factor into your decision.

When shopping for seating, or any other furnishings for that matter, remember that you get what you pay for. A cheap item may serve its purpose temporarily, but be prepared to replace it in short order. The quality of the piece is usually reflected in the price. Consider the joinery, construction of the seat (web, coil or foam), the type of material (i.e. wood, metal or plastic) and the upholstery.

ART

Art is colour and character. It can make an ordinary room come to life, adding an element of surprise and bringing meaning to empty walls. However, the "where" of your art is just as important as the "what."

Incorporate art into every room in your home, and consider alternative ways to display framed pieces, such as leaning a large canvas against the wall on the floor, or layering a few different-sized framed on the fireplace mantel.



By accessorizing your home with some key must-haves, you can achieve a space you're excited to return to every day.



LIGHTING

Last, but certainly not least, lighting is one of those subtle but impactful elements that can make or break a space. Each room should include a combination of ambient lighting, task lighting and accent lighting. Ambient refers to the general light in the room, often by way of ceiling fixtures. Task lighting illuminates functional areas, such as a desktop or reading chair. Accent lighting is decorative, and used to highlight things like art or architectural features. When combined in a room, the result is a warm and inviting space that screams (or depending on the intensity, whispers) "home."

"Home" means different things to different people. Regardless what it is to you, chances are "warm" and "welcoming" factor into your definition. By accessorizing your home with some key must-haves, in the right way, you too can achieve a space you're excited to return to every day.

Diana Rose is the principal and creative director for Diana Rose Design and is known for creating tailored interiors that enhance and complement your lifestyle. Visit www.dianarosedesign.com.



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