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## Here's How To Decorate Your First Home On A Budget

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### **Don't get overwhelmed by the idea of setting up your first home. Rather, let your home be a reflection of your personality, say experts**

Buying your first home is not only one of the most important decisions, but also a very expensive one. In addition to this, decorating a blank space can be daunting, and to do it on a budget poses another challenge. Hence, if you have become a new home-owner, let our experts guide you on how you can turn your new home into a warm and inviting abode while going easy on your pocket.

#### **Keep it basic**

Parul Mittal, director, Greenlam Industries Ltd, a leading provider of different surfacing solutions in India, points out some easy ways to start setting up the house:

- Before moving into your new home, get rid of the clutter. This will not only make it easier for you to pack up and move things from the old home to your new one, but it will also help you manage everything on a budget;
- Paint all the walls white as it will give your home a neat and crisp appeal. You can incorporate colour later in furnishings and décor pieces. For instance, you can splash bright shades like orange and pink in your cushions or curtains against the white walls to give it a warm and fun appeal;
- By including small planters in the home, one can instantly amp up the decor aesthetics as well as the indoor health environment. The use of greenery also provides a soothing vision with a pop of colour to the eyes and a fresher atmosphere;
- Rather than purchasing new furniture or decor pieces, upgrade the items you already own with stylish new hardware or paint. Drab cabinets can be transformed through decorative laminates in natural wood design, and grungy walls can come to life by high dimensional, natural grain, real wood veneers.

#### **Personalise your space**

Every corner in your house should exude a sense of uniqueness and class. For instance, your living room is the focal point of your home, a place where friends and family sit and unwind. "Hence, make your living room cozy with plush textures and add contrast with the hard surfaces. Include cheerful shades like blue that perfectly contrast warm elements such as wood to create a relaxing and an inviting atmosphere. Go for lightweight seating arrangements such as stools, ottomans, and pouffes that can be moved around easily. It is important to have a durable living room seating fabric. Cotton, polyester, and leather are some of the common options, which can be used for furniture upholstery," explains Robin Sisodiya, founder and principal architect, ASRO Arcade, a Gurgaon-based architecture and urban design firm.

Your bedroom is your space to relax, rejuvenate and re-energise. Therefore, it should be designed thoughtfully. "As the bed is the focal point in the bedroom, select a high-quality mattress, pillows and sheets. A thoughtful mix of materials and textures such as metals and fabrics look breathtaking without being heavy on your pocket. One can also add throw blankets, cushions and faux rugs along with textured laminates, which come in a variety of finishes. Also, to keep clutter to a minimum, opt for closet organisers, fabric storage bins and nesting baskets," adds Mittal.

A kitchen is more than just a cooking area as it is a space where one weaves delightful memories. Therefore, one should start with organising their appliances, crockery, and other accessories neatly to create harmony between elements. "For countertops, choose a beige or cream shade. Showcase your ceramics on open shelves. Adorn your windows with white linen curtains and allow the natural sunlight to evoke serenity. Choose metallic bulbs or ceiling lamps to illuminate your interiors. Also, from gas piping to curved countertop edges, think about all the different ways to make your kitchen safe," elaborates Mittal.

#### **The art of balancing**

Decorating your first home can be exciting as well as confusing. Therefore, Urvashi Sathaye, principal designer at M.A.D.E by Urvashi Sathaye, an interior design firm, elaborates on the dos and don'ts:

- Have a plan as it will help you identify the needs and usages of the space. Thereafter, create an inventory of the existing stuff you own and a list of things you will need to source;
- It is not necessary to have brand new items in your new home. A quick revamp of old items adds an interesting character to the pieces and makes them more charming in a new setting;
- Infuse colour on the walls; hang art; plan a photo wall; display collectables from your travels or show off your book collection;
- Everything on the internet looks amazing. You have great examples of varied styles of interiors. However, try not to replicate all of them;
- While the furniture must look beautiful, if you aren't able to use it or if it does not fulfil your needs, it will be a wasted investment;
- As exciting as it is to set up a new home, don't go overboard with all the planning and end up overdecorating your home.