

# 5 Cheap DIY Home Decor Tricks

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When spring officially hits, the desire to refresh your home decor often does, too. Getting swept up in spring cleaning and the "out with the old, in with the new" mentality spreads to every nook and cranny in our homes. Only, our wallets don't always follow our heart's desires. Which is why we came up with some fresh DIY home decor ideas that won't cost you a bundle.

Do you want to give your living space a magazine-worthy look without the high-end interior designer price tag? Don't spend all of your time lusting after those stunning photos in the

magazines; start making your *own* home something to lust over! The DIY home decor tips below will have your place ready for its close-up—and some of them won't cost you a dime.

And for added savings, be sure to shop through Splender, where you can earn cash back from sites like Ace Hardware, Sears.com and hundreds more for all your home decor needs.

## 1. Mix Up Throw Pillow Patterns, Shapes and Sizes

Don't be afraid to mix and match! Have you ever noticed that magazines rarely feature rooms with entire matching sets of department store furniture? Pillows in various shapes and sizes, textures and colors add dimension to sofas and chairs. An imperfect collection gives a unique, unstuffy and lived-in feel. Something like this Cool Velvet Stripe Pillow from Pier 1 Imports (where Splender members can earn 3% cash back) has the perfect combination of color and texture.

Just remember, a mix of prints can be intriguing, but they can also lead to crazytown fast. However, a perfectly matched set isn't very inspired either—overall visual harmony is truly the key.

## 2. Add a Contrasting Pop of Color

Make a bold statement to update your sofa. Something unexpected in the living room is always a plus. Add either texture or a bright pop of color to hit the mark. Try this Attention Ombre Throw from Kmart.com in a zesty orange, brilliant blue or glittering gold hue (and receive 4% cash back from Kmart.com).

#### 3. Install a Headboard

A bed with a headboard will enhance the look and feel of a bedroom, and if you pay close attention, you'll notice that most beds shown in magazines have some sort of attention-grabbing headboard.

Give your bedroom a luxurious feel with this Skyline Tufted Panel Headboard that is embellished with handcrafted diamond tufts and upholstered in chic shantung silk. The contemporary silhouette is sure to add style to any bedroom. Without having to buy a complete bedframe, buying a separate headboard like this one that attaches to any standard bed frame allows you to mix and match. Plus, the dramatically lavish peacock green color draws one's eye to the bed. (Order your headboard from Walmart.com and receive 2% cash back).

Or if you're feeling crafty, try making your own! Click here for a quick and easy how-to guide. You can find many of the materials for this DIY home decor project at Ace Hardware, where Splender members can earn 4% cash back on purchases.

#### 3. Create Height with Branches

Skip the florist—sometimes a few blossoming branches in a glass vase can be enough to create a look just a stunning as an expensive bouquet from the florist. Greenery and branches are also excellent ways to enhance large spaces and bring dimension to smaller abodes. A simple vase filled with leaves and greenery on a counter or table instantly adds a fresh feeling.

Bring a bit of nature inside and create a unique bouquet with an Ashland Lagurus Dried Floral Bunch, an Ashland Mini Flowering Branch or even this Ashland Washed Eucalyptus Bunch from Michaels Stores (where you can receive 3% cash back).

Or even decorate with greenery from the backyard! Go for a walk in the park and find pretty branches to decorate with. Greenery adds life and another dimension to sculptural elements. All you need are standard vases like this Geocaris vase or these Litton vases (all from Crate & Barrel, where Splender members receive 2% cash back) and some fresh water. Click here for some examples.

### 4. Make a Visual Impact

It's tempting to want to maximize every free space, bookshelves included—that's what they're for, isn't it? But if you look at most professionally designed living rooms, the shelves have at least a few bare spots. One way to keep yourself from overstuffing the shelves is by stacking all of your books horizontally. Look to Chanel's head designer, Karl Lagerfeld, for inspiration. His impressive library of coffee table books takes horizontal stacking to the next level.

Taking it another step further, organizing your books by the color of their spine can create a dramatic effect on your shelves. Sure you've seen it in every trendy home decor magazine, but we still love the visual impact of organization by color. Adding a gradient effect, light to dark or vice versa, can create a focal point in any room. Like this bookshelf from Shelterness.com. Color-blocking your books is a budget-friendly DIY home decor project that can be almost as striking and powerful as a great piece of art. *Voilà*, your bookshelf is its own design statement!

Still not convinced? For more on the design inspiration to color-code your bookshelves read this. If you're looking for some unique shelves on which to make that unique design statement, try World Market (with 6% cash back) or Pier 1 Imports (with 3% cash back).

## 5. Let One Wall Do the Talking

Accent walls are making a comeback, especially in modern rooms that feature minimalist furniture in neutral tones. The lack of color can make a room look bland rather quickly, and an accent wall is a fuss-free way to warm things up. A bold, colorful shade is good for an accent wall because it accentuates a space without overpowering it. If you prefer a more gentle contrast, try using a deeper version of your current wall color on one strategic wall. This can be just enough to cause interest and break up the monotony of a single-color space.

To help you choose the best hue for your accent wall color, choose a color from a pillow or a piece of artwork in the room as inspiration. Deep reds and burgundies are very popular right

now, like California Poppy by Behr, which can give your room that rich, cozy feeling. (Purchase your accent wall paint from Homedepot.com and receive 3% cash back).

A few subtle changes can take your home from "eh" to "oh, wow." These DIY home decor tips are just a few of the ways you can make your home feel fresh and like it belongs in one of your favorite magazines—on a budget! And don't forget to shop for your new pieces through Splender so you can earn cash back on all purchases. Happy spring cleaning – and decorating!