

TRANSFORM YOUR SPACE: CREATIVE AND BUDGET-FRIENDLY DECORATING SOLUTIONS



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Abstract

Enhance the aesthetic appeal of your living space in Melbourne with thoughtful home decoration. From chic urban apartments to cozy suburban dwellings, beautifying your entire home can truly elevate its ambiance. Explore diverse décor styles, incorporate local design influences, and personalize each corner to reflect your unique taste and personality.

1. Introduction

Discover the ultimate guide to decorating your home in Melbourne with this comprehensive PDF. Packed with expert tips and local design inspiration, it offers the best decoration solutions for every corner of your living space. From trendy urban lofts to charming suburban homes, transform your space into a stylish haven with ease.

2. Decorating Mistakes That Make Your Home Look Messier

You work hard to keep your home clean on a daily basis in Melbourne, so the last thing you want is for your decorating choices to contribute to a messy-looking room. Although clearing out clutter is the first step to a polished, orderly look, the way you furnish and decorate the room is also critical to its overall neatness. Sometimes simple decorating mistakes that date your home can also make the design appear disheveled or downright chaotic. When something isn't quite right, it can detract from the design and interfere with the overall mood of the room. Luckily, an over-decorated house is often easily fixable with a few tweaks. Simply swapping out accessories or rearranging furnishings can help bring order to the room and maximize your tidying efforts.

To help you create a space in Melbourne that looks clean and organized, we've compiled a list of decorating mistakes that could be making your home appear messy. By steering clear of these common issues, you'll find that it's easier to maintain order and achieve a tidy look.

1. Relying Too Much on Open Storage

Open shelves are a great place to store books and display collectibles or art, but this type of storage works best when it's not overcrowded. When decorating a bookcase or built-in shelves, don't pack every inch of space with books and accessories. To achieve a cleaner look, edit down the arrangement so you can leave some open space between items. You should also avoid using open storage to manage electronics and cables or to hold games, movies, and toys. These items are best stashed away inside cabinets, boxes (like these shelf-size woven Better Homes & Gardens baskets, \$18, Walmart), or baskets for a less cluttered effect.

2. Using Too Many Colors

Decorating with too many colors is guaranteed to make a home look cluttered in Melbourne. Use one or two hues combined with neutral colors to give your home a cohesive, relaxed look. This living room features various shades of blue to create a gorgeous, cohesive space. The neutral rug, window coverings, and furnishings allow the room to breathe while making it appear more spacious and open.



3. Adding Too Many Accent Pillows

Avoid a haphazard and untidy look by limiting the number of accent pillows on a sofa or bed. This living room looks pulled together and well-decorated because the sofa isn't laden with piles of decorative pillows. Two or three accent pillows on each end of the sofa are typically the perfect amount to decorate a room with beautiful color and pattern. Anchor the arrangement with a neutral pillow that goes with everything.

4. Pushing Furniture Against Walls

Arranging all of your furniture up against the walls can make the space look cluttered and messy. The solution? Opt for smaller pieces and pull the furniture away from the walls and toward the center of the room, as in this living room seating arrangement. This grouping of four chairs around a coffee table creates the perfect conversation area. Ground the furniture with an area rug to tie the arrangement together.

5. Placing Too Much Decor on Tables

Too many decorative accents on the surface of a table will make a room look cluttered. Instead, edit the number of accessories, then decorate the table with one or two groupings of items. First, pare down what you already have on the tabletop. Only display what you love and what is functional (for example, a small dish for storing car keys and sunglasses) and remove the rest. Group many small objects in a jar or bowl or place on a tray. A textured tray (like this timeless hammered brass Better Homes & Gardens tray, \$30, Walmart) adds contrast to the table. Elevate small objects on a stack of two or three books to give it a purposeful look.

6. Hanging Pictures Randomly

Pictures and wall art hung in a haphazard fashion across a wall create a chaotic look that can overwhelm the space. Instead, group pictures in a gallery wall arrangement to instantly make the room appear more organized and balanced. The art hung above this bed, for example, demonstrates how several pieces can be hung to create a visually pleasing and curated look.

3. Home Decor Styles And Why They Work

Finding your personal home style is a tricky thing in Melbourne. You can spend hours online looking at inspiration images and taking style quizzes and still not be quite sure. Interior design styles aren't just about aesthetics and color palettes, although those are often how we tell them apart. Most design styles are a product of the lifestyles and innovations of the time period when they became popular.

Understanding how these styles came to be, as well as what aesthetic choices set them apart, will help you narrow down just what style, or styles, will work best for you in your home.

1. Traditional

Let's begin with the style with the most robust pedigree. When many people say the word "traditional" what they mean is "of the aesthetic traditions of 18th and 19th-century European interiors," especially French and English interiors. This style is all about formality and, when executed properly, the spaces feel elegant and refined. Traditional interiors prioritize symmetry and layering, leaning heavily on architectural detailing. Think crowned molding, wainscoting, dark wood finishes, creamy neutrals, richly colored accents and furniture sets that match.

The traditional aesthetic can sometimes feel a bit stuffy in open floor plan modern homes, but that doesn't mean you have to give up the aesthetic altogether. There are quite a few styles that pull from the traditional aesthetic to create timeless and modern approaches for today's homes. One such style is up next.

2. Transitional

In many ways, the transitional aesthetic is a sentimental one, tapping into the nostalgia of your grandparent's antiques and adapting them into the modern world. Think earthy tones paired with traditional molding or dark wood antiques alongside more organic and subdued furniture pieces. Typically, this style favors rich accents on a neutral backdrop with an emphasis on texture rather than pattern.

Transitional is inherently a mutable style. It's capable of taking on a variety of flavors, making it a great option for anyone who wants to ease into the style-verse or who is looking to build a more curated eclectic style.

3. Eclectic

The key word with eclecticism is curated. The goal is to create a space that is robust and rich, but not overwhelming. This is a great style if you like antiques of different periods, or have a home with more traditional detailing as it lends itself to a less matchy-matchy execution than traditional design. Modern lighting will also go a long way to bring in the eclectic touch, as will adding in furniture and decor pieces with more modern textures and patterns.



That being said, eclecticism doesn't have any set rules. Its layered nature makes it well-suited to combining with many other styles, but it requires a good bit of patience to build up a good collection.

4. Maximalism

Maximalism turns up the volume, emphasizing bold and unexpected design choices. Pattern is paramount here, as are rich colors and layers of visual texture. It's easy to overdo it with this style, so starting small is important. A great place to start is by adding one or two bold elements to your space such as a patterned wallpaper with matching patterned pillows.

Creating rules for yourself can help you hold the reins of this style. For example, if you like the curated clutter look, choose a theme for your gallery wall like oceanscapes. By narrowing down the theme of the pieces, you also will narrow down your palette, which allows you to keep your space cohesive. Focusing on saturation, rather than scattered elements, will help keep your space from feeling chaotic.

5. Bohemian

The bohemian look is the more approachable sibling of eclecticism. With a long tradition, the bohemian style is relaxed and lush, drawing from the colors and lifestyles of cultures from all over the world. If you are something of a traveler or collector, this style will suit you well. Similar to eclecticism, there aren't really any set rules to this style. A few key elements, however, would be natural textures like rattan and jute, warm mixed metals, bold patterns and colors and layered lighting.

Handmade goods are also a common feature, particularly block prints, macrame and other woven or printed pieces. While color palettes can vary greatly, warm neutrals are a good place to start, especially with wood finishes. The bohemian style is inherently playful, so it's well suited to those who enjoy a casual and relaxed environment.

6. Contemporary

The contemporary moniker often leads to some confusion. By definition, contemporary aesthetics are of the moment and are therefore constantly shifting and evolving. Contemporary design in 2022 is

subtle, warm and neutral. At its heart this style takes the visual diversity of transitional design and sends it into the future, with an emphasis on more modern textures and shapes.

Color palettes are generally subdued, contrasting textures is common and striking visual forms are a must. While many key tenants of this style mirror the transitional look, contemporary style looks to more modern elements for its personality and funk, employing reflective materials like glass and polished metals to bring a glamorous, and sometimes even industrial, finish.

7. Glam

The glam style has its roots in classic art deco style with an emphasis on curved furniture, lush textures, jewel tones and reflective surfaces. The style evolved overtime to what has become known as glam or Hollywood glam, tying back to the golden age of Hollywood. These days, this style is most popular as a way to elevate the otherwise neutral elements of contemporary and modern styles.

To tap into this style, look for bold accessories and furniture pieces in luxe fabrics like satin, suede and velvet. Window treatments are a great place to start. Mirrored surfaces, lacquered millwork and glass will also add some of that classic art deco gleam. And for the bold, nothing says Hollywood glam quite like animal print or a bold all-over tone.

8. Modern

Modernism as an aesthetic evolved from the belief that design should be simple, functional and accessible. New forms and textures were born in the wake of technological and material advances at the start of the twentieth century, bringing us the sleek and minimal spaces we now think of as modern. Sinuous shapes, curved chrome chair legs, simple machine-precise detailing and minimal decor defines this style.

This style is an excellent foundation for people who are looking to create clean and minimal spaces. While modern spaces can sometimes be a bit stark, adding contemporary elements like earthy tones and varied textures can go a long way to soften things up and integrate this style into more traditional spaces.

9. Mid-Century Modern

Like its predecessor, mid-century modern is a style defined by an era. In particular, Melbourne postwar era of the 1950s and 60s. The design staples of this style are hairpin legs, warm wood tones like teak and rosewood and vibrant earthy color palettes. Curving shapes and intentional detailing also define a lot of the furniture and lighting. This style is really versatile, but it looks particularly excellent in craftsman bungalows and postwar apartment buildings of the same era.

Mixing in a few midcentury pieces is also a great way to simultaneously modernize your space and give it a retro warmth. It's ideal for those who don't want to have a fussy space, but still want a bit of personality. Mix in boho elements for a more casual look, or go full blast with an Eames' lounge chair for the full retro effect.

10. Scandinavian

The Scandinavian aesthetic is clean and serene. Its nordic roots lead to an emphasis on using natural materials in understated ways to create spaces that are both sophisticated and relaxed. Unlike many of the palettes from this era, the Scandinavian palette favors pale, unsaturated tones that emphasize the organic character of natural elements. Think simple wax finishes on wood floors, pale or gray wood tones like ash and walnut, natural undyed wool and linen.

The key to this style is to create a space that feels welcoming, warm and bright. Aim for adding rich textures like sheepskin and linen. The detailing of this style is thoughtful, but minimal, with many furniture pieces having an emphasis on construction. A great example of this is the bentwood design of the wishbone chair. This is the style that birthed Ikea, so simple sophistication rules the day.

11. Southwestern

The Southwestern style takes its cues from mid-century modern design, but with a warmer and weightier finish. Instead of hairpin legs and classic boucle, furniture pieces have chunkier wooden legs and plushier upholstery in canvas and leather. The neutral backdrop remains, but is more saturated and textured to reflect the soft warmth of the adobe material, so terracotta and rust are foundational colors.

This style also tends to feature softer woven elements and heavy ironwork, either as architectural elements or in the accents and decor, bringing a visual balance to the space. In general, the style is very structural and distinct, including the vibrant patterned pillows and throws that really bring the southwestern style home.

4. Cheap & Chic Ways to Decorate Walls Without Paint



While paint is by far the most common decorating treatment for residential walls in Melbourne, it is not always the hassle-free decorating technique people think it is. Painting a room is messy, smelly, and time-consuming, and the level of hassle jumps a notch if you happen to be painting ceilings and woodwork as well as the wall surfaces.

So why not consider other decorative treatments for your walls? With some creativity, you might even stumble across some decorating methods that are both easier and more attractive than paint.

Below, you'll find seven real-life examples of homeowners and apartment dwellers who have found clever, innovative ways to dress up walls without spilling a drop of paint or cleaning up a single paintbrush. They're not only great to look at, but perfect for stylishly hiding unsightly eyesores such as holes, dings, and dents.

Peel-and-Stick Confetti

In this example, blogger Agnes Hammar from Melbourne has found a way to hide nasty stains and nicks on a rental apartment's wall by using DIY peel and stick "confetti"—self-adhesive stickers that create a collage of different colors and shapes that make the occasional wall flaw look like part of the plan.

Peelable stickers offer the advantage of being easy to remove when it comes time to move on to a new residence or when another innovative decor solution strikes your fancy.

DIY Wall Tapestry

Wall tapestries aren't just for college kids. While they are great for dressing up a dorm room, they're also a chic bohemian decor staple that can help warm up cold rooms. This stylish one from The Merry Thought couldn't be simpler—made from an ordinary canvas drop cloth and permanent ink markers.

How much does this idea cost to create? You can pick up a 9-by-12-foot drop cloth made of machine-washable cotton for about \$20. Permanent markers usually cost less than a buck each.

Washi Tape Decor

Here's an idea perfect for small spaces. It will spruce up boring white walls and your room decor, while also offering a way to cover up small holes created by picture frame hangers. Emily, from Everything Emily Blog, used black washi tape to create a repeated plus pattern.

Washi tape, a decorative masking tape made from Japanese rice paper, is loved by crafters because it comes in hundreds of colors, patterns, and sizes. And, although it's surprisingly durable, washi tape is also a cinch to remove. For the best results, you'll want to work on a clean surface, so remove dirt and dust from your wall using a gentle cleaner or clean damp rag. When it's dry, you're ready to tape.

How much does this magical tape cost? Prices vary based on style and width. A 30-yard starter pack, which usually includes three 10-yard rolls, starts at around \$5.

Post-It Note Masterpiece

Yep, this colorful textured mural of Kanye West was made using Post-It Notes in colors from the Electric Glow Collection. It was created by two roommates, Emily Duda, and Jamie Accashian, using nothing but sticky little pieces of paper.

How much did this project cost? While we're not sure how many Post-Its were used, but we do know a 14-pad pack costs around \$20.

Faux Brick Photo Wall

If you have a massive number of digital photos you want to display, print them all out and DIY this mesmerizing photo wall from IKEA Family Live. The trick to this brick-look is making sure all the photos are printed at the same size and arranged in precise rows.

What are the out-of-pocket costs for a project like this? It all depends on what you pay for printer ink.

Tip: If you have a postcard collection, you can adapt this technique to show them off.

Fabric-Covered Walls

Dressing up walls with fabric can be done in several different ways. In this example, an unsightly wall has been covered with a curtain. Don't want to mess with a curtain rod? You can staple fabric directly onto the wall.

You can also use fabric and starch to create removable DIY wallpaper. Want to save money when you buy fabric? Flatbed sheets are usually much cheaper than buying material by the yard.

5. How to Decorate with Indoor Plants to Create an Inviting Space



Houseplants are often overlooked in home decor, but they add a fresh, green and appealing quality to any room. Here are 16 ideas for how to decorate with indoor plants.

Decorating with plants

Maybe you scour home decor magazines and pin your way through Pinterest, looking for just the right combination of furnishings, color schemes and accent pieces for your everyday living spaces. But are you overlooking a major design element—one that doesn't involve committing to an expensive couch or a wall color you'll soon tire of? Look no further than the humble houseplant. Decorating with plants is a fun, creative and usually inexpensive way to enliven—literally and figuratively—your domestic spaces.

“Plants are the best way I know of to add life to a space,” says Justin Lievano, lead florist at UrbanStems. “Introducing plants to any decorating scheme immediately makes a space feel fresher and less sterile.”

Plus, as Lievano points out, studies have shown that keeping and tending to plants is good for our mental health—and many plants act as indoor air purifiers too. By making us feel better all around, having plants, Lievano says, “enhances our ability to enjoy a well-curated space.”

When it comes to decorating with indoor plants, Lievano says there aren’t any hard-and-fast rules. “Your relationship with plants should be about what you love and what plants will thrive in your space,” he says. So as you shop for plants, either in garden centers or from online plant retailers, think about your setting, as well as the greenness of your thumb. You may want to start with some low-maintenance indoor plants, or shop for plants that do better in low light.

Think texture and variety

Just as you don’t want every texture in your living room to be the same, so it goes with plants. “Given that most plants are some shade of green,” says Lievano, “the best way to create visual interest is with form and texture. By varying the foliage in a room, he says, “you can really add interest and visual richness. For example, the broad glossy leaves of a rubber ficus next to the cute bright foliage of a Chinese money plant are instantly pleasing for the eye.

Make plants part of a color scheme

With their varied shades of green, as well as yellow, white, red or variegated leaves, plants can add pops of color to any corner of the home. But they’re not just accents. Consider this arrangement of plants in different shades of green against a bold teal-blue wall. No artwork needed, and not a matching pillow in sight! Succulent sedum dasyphyllum has a pretty, dusty blue-green color, while alocasias come in a huge range of variegated to dark-green shades. Caring for succulents can be harder than you might think, so be sure to read up on how to take care of them.

Wake up to wellness

Many types of plants are known for their air-purifying qualities. So by putting plants at your bedside, you not only wake up to a cheerful scene before you, you’ll have had a healthier sleep, thanks to a nightstand full of VOC-filtering green helpers. According to NASA, the best air-filtering plants include peace lilies, corn plants and heart-leaf philodendrons.

Combine styles

We love the combination of classic white ornamental plasterwork, rustic plant stands and, of course, the green flash the plants provide. Lievano says that when decorating with plants, it’s important to think about visual balance. “If you have a large floor plant in one corner of the room, it will be really eye-catching, and smaller plants in the same space may go unnoticed,” he says. The wooden plant shelf pictured here allows for similarly sized plants to grab equal attention.

Think small

Apartment dwellers in Melbourne or those with small spaces to work with can still decorate with plants. “A little collection of potted plants near a window (maybe spread across a table, the windowsill or hanging nearby) allows each plant the attention and space it needs to shine,” says Lievano. “Interesting vases and contrasting forms and textures make this succulent assemblage cheerful in a small area.”

Go for the unexpected

Talk about upcycling! This clever use of old copper pans as plant holders is proof that there are ways to reuse just about every item. The copper creates a nice contrast against the green foliage too. For a

set-up like this one, it's better to use succulent plants or epiphytes that need to be watered infrequently. Otherwise, keep the plants in small plastic vases that are lower than the rim of the copper pot so you can take them out for watering.



Create wall art with plants

What a simple, elegant idea. Instead of hanging photos or artwork on a wall, decorate with plants. These triangular hanging vases are designed to sit flush against a wall, creating a look that's 3D yet low-profile at the same time. Once again, succulents are a good option here, as are air plants that don't need watering. Play around with different vase shapes and sizes to create your own "work of (plant) art."

Skip the soil

If concerns over messy potting soil have kept you from decorating with plants, consider growing plants that can thrive in water, bark, moss or on lava rock. Pothos, philodendrons and most plants from the aroid family, as well as several varieties of ivy, can grow in water, or as hydroponics. Just be sure to change the water every couple of weeks. Orchids, like other epiphytes (air plants), can grow in bark, moss or attached to a piece of a tree stump or lava rock.

Create a hobby corner

If puttering with plants is your passion, convert a section of an indoor or covered outdoor living area into a potting corner. If you commit to keeping your space orderly, with some nice shelving and a few plant stands, a gardening corner can be a pleasant addition to your home and a place that will provide lots of enjoyment to you and spark interest among guests who visit.

6. Simple Habits To Keep Your Home Clean And Organised

Good Habits can improve your way of living, bring discipline and enhance your productivity in the long run. This becomes even more relevant when maintaining a clean, shiny and well-organised home. Keeping up with simple cleaning habits can make a huge difference, especially if you have a busy schedule. Instead of getting into complex or time-consuming chores, develop easy and doable tasks and develop them into your daily habits. This can help you maintain a clean living space and save your hours when performing a professional end of lease cleaning Melbourne. It is good to start slowly and steadily with the help of the following habits and achieve a clean abode all year round:

Make Your Bed Every Morning

This is one of the easiest habits that everyone should develop if they want a clean and de-cluttered bedroom. Make your bed every morning to make your room look cleaner and organised. This can also reduce your stress and boost happiness. The best part is that it takes only 2-4 minutes to make a bed in the morning. So, develop this habit and change your bedsheet whenever required and wash it in hot water.

Keep Shoes At The Entrance Door

It is good to restrict the entry of shoes inside the house because footwear can bring heavy soil, dirt, debris, and harmful germs and make your floors and carpets dirty. It is good to include extra shelves and boxes to store shoes and other footwear at the entryway or in an entry closet. Also, install a natural fibre rug in the mudroom/entryway to scuff off the dirt from the shoes or feet and prevent dust and debris from settling on floors and carpets. However, you can do a carpet steam cleaning once every two to three months to keep your floor coverings clean and shiny. Tip: You can strictly instruct your kids and other family members to keep their shoes at the entryway.

Clean Your Rooms As You Go

It becomes much easier to pick things up as you go and put them in a designated place to reduce mess and clutter. Instead of waiting for a long cleaning session, you should de-clutter your home as you go and save hours. Some of the great examples are:

Toss dirty clothes in the laundry bucket every morning after getting ready instead of throwing them on a chair.

Hang coats and umbrellas at the entryway.

Put utensils and other kitchen items back in their assigned place after use.

Put newspapers, magazines and books back on shelves

This can make it super easy for working professionals to maintain a well-organised abode. You can also give a house cleaning service as gift to your loved ones and show your love and affection for them.

Involve Your Entire Family

This can be a game-changer for your entire home. Slowly develop a habit of performing nightly 15-minute clean-ups with your family. Set the timer and start the cleaning process. Do simple yet important tasks, such as folding clothes, wiping down hard surfaces, washing dishes, mopping floors,

wiping countertops, etc. If you are at the end of your tenancy, hire professional end of lease cleaners Melbourne and secure your hard-earned bond money. They spruce up every nook and cranny according to your specific needs and the pre-approved checklist.



Wash Dishes Before Going To Bed

Leaving dirty dishes in the sink overnight can harbour lethal germs that can cause foodborne illnesses and health hazards. So, make a habit of doing dishes before going to bed. Also, clean and sanitise your sink, faucets and garbage disposal using vinegar, baking soda and lemon.

Keep Cleaning Supplies Handy

Make sure you have all the necessary cleaning supplies, including:

Microfiber cloths and dusters

Sponges

Scrubbing pads

Spray bottles

Vacuum machine

Cleaning solvents, etc

Stock up everything together in a caddy and keep it handy so that you can swipe or wipe off the dirty surfaces whenever required. Make sure you check the expiry date of cleaning products before using them.

Declutter Your Home Once A Month

Household items usually pile up if you don't de-clutter your home regularly. This can make you look dirty and disorganised- which can affect your mental health. So, spend two hours once every month and inspect all your items, such as magazines, mail, books, food jars, clothing, etc and get rid of

unwanted stuff. You can donate the pre-loved items to the local charity in Melbourne or recycle them to reduce carbon footprints.

Do The 10-Minute Power Clean Session

This may sound tedious, but spending 10 minutes every day in a power clean-up session can make a huge difference. When you work for a short period of time, you can work effectively and efficiently. So, focus on tasks that can be performed with ease, such as wiping surfaces, vacuuming carpets and upholstered furniture and cleaning a dirty kitchen appliance. It is good to take one task at a time and use natural cleaning products, such as vinegar, baking soda, and hydrogen peroxide, for safe and sound results. Make sure you book an experienced company for a budget end of lease cleaning Melbourne for a safe and sound retrieval of your hard-earned bond money without any rental dispute at the end of your tenancy.

Developing simple yet good habits can help you achieve a clean, shiny, germ-free and organised abode with ease. Make sure you follow these habits and make changes as per your requirements to keep up with household chores with ease.

7. Conclusion

In conclusion, this PDF serves as your comprehensive resource for beautifying your home in Melbourne. With expert advice and creative solutions tailored to local tastes, you can transform every aspect of your living space into a stylish and inviting retreat. Say hello to a more beautiful and personalized home today.

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