



Consider room size, quality of pieces when choosing furniture

Question: How do I avoid costly mistakes when purchasing furniture?

Answer: First, always measure the room or area where the furniture will be placed. This allows you to avoid multiple visits to furniture stores when looking for a specifically sized item. When you go armed with your floor plans, the salesperson can only sell you items which will address your needs. Your floor plans will show the proposed furniture placement. Furniture placement should always take into consideration the presence of radiators or air conditioning ducts, windows, door swings, and all door and window casings (trim work).

Besides measuring the space, you also need to measure the existing furniture that you plan to keep. Because buying new furniture may shift the placement of your current pieces, you need to plan to accommodate the new, as well as the old, furniture. You must always note the size of doorways and access areas such as hallways and elevators. Imagine how disappointing it could be to purchase furniture that will fit in the room, but you can't get it into the building.

Define your style, or the aesthetic direction of the room. Once you have determined if you are looking for contemporary, country, mid-century, modern, etc., you'll be able to shop for classic, well-constructed pieces that complements the existing architecture and décor of your home. Try not to stray too much from your home's style unless you are very comfortable with this eclectic look.

Purchase the best quality furniture your budget will allow—even if it means sacrificing quantity. Buy one good quality piece at a time. Consider the amount of wear and tear a piece of furniture may have to endure. Good quality furniture is constructed of hard woods, such as oak, mahogany and teak; not pine or ash. *

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