

Share Save on Pinterest Next >

PRO NEW HOMEOWNERS



We'd like to send you some notifications
 Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

WIN A TOOL SET SUBSCRIBE

Ads by Google

Send feedback Why t

Dismiss Allow



Home > Topics > Decor



Home Décor Mistakes You Should Avoid



Katie Dohman
 Updated: Apr. 22, 2021



Did these common home-decorating pitfalls identified by interior design experts. No worries: They provide guidance on how to do it right.



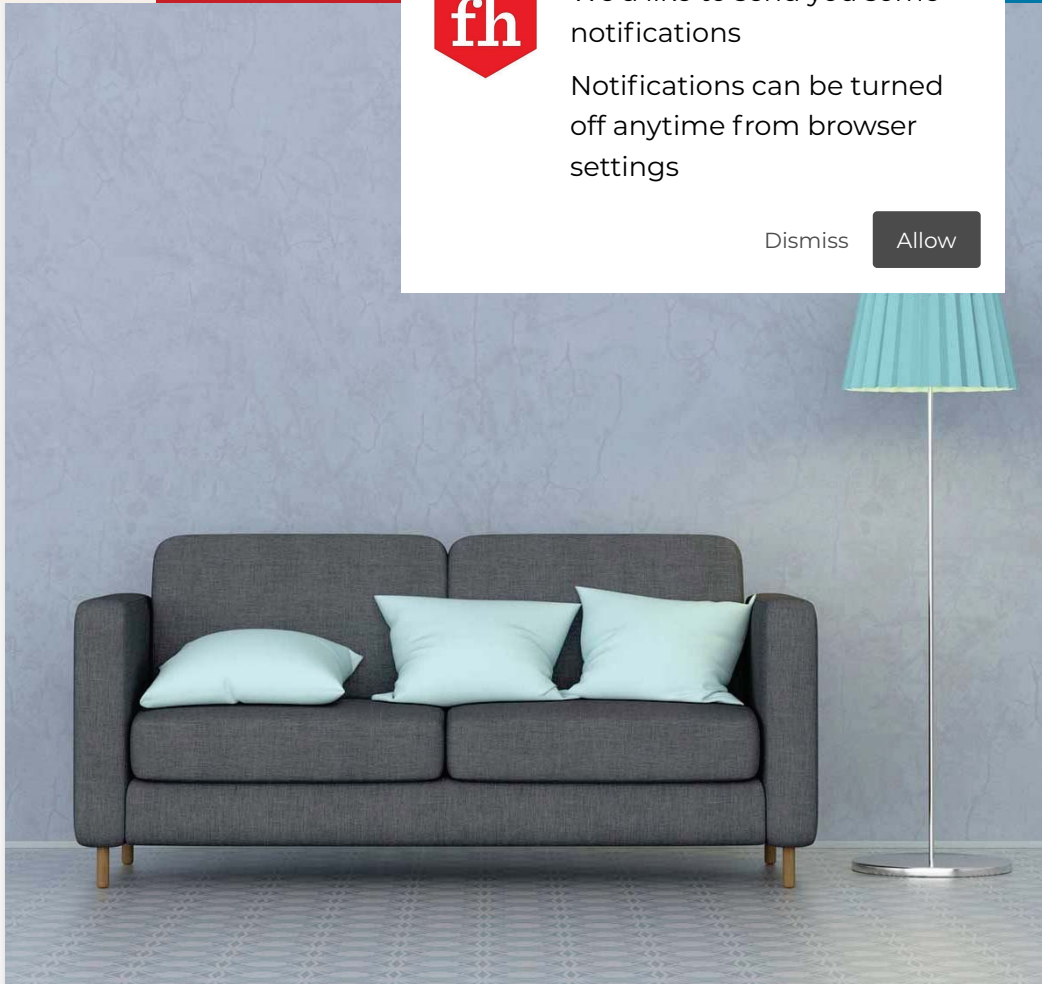
We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss

Allow

Next >



WESTEND61/GETTY IMAGES

Deserting the Details

“The [design mistake](#) I see folks make most often is neglecting the details,” says [Inspired Home Interiors](#) president Pattie Kelly, IFDA. “It’s the finishing touches that tie all the elements together and make a room feel complete.”

How it looks and feels is important, of course. Blank walls will leave your room feeling cold and devoid of personality. But it also needs to “work.”

Kelly mentions a real-life example: Forgetting to [install towel racks](#) in a bathroom. That will leave people awkwardly wondering where to dry their hands or hang their towel, and force you to add a rack in an inopportune spot.

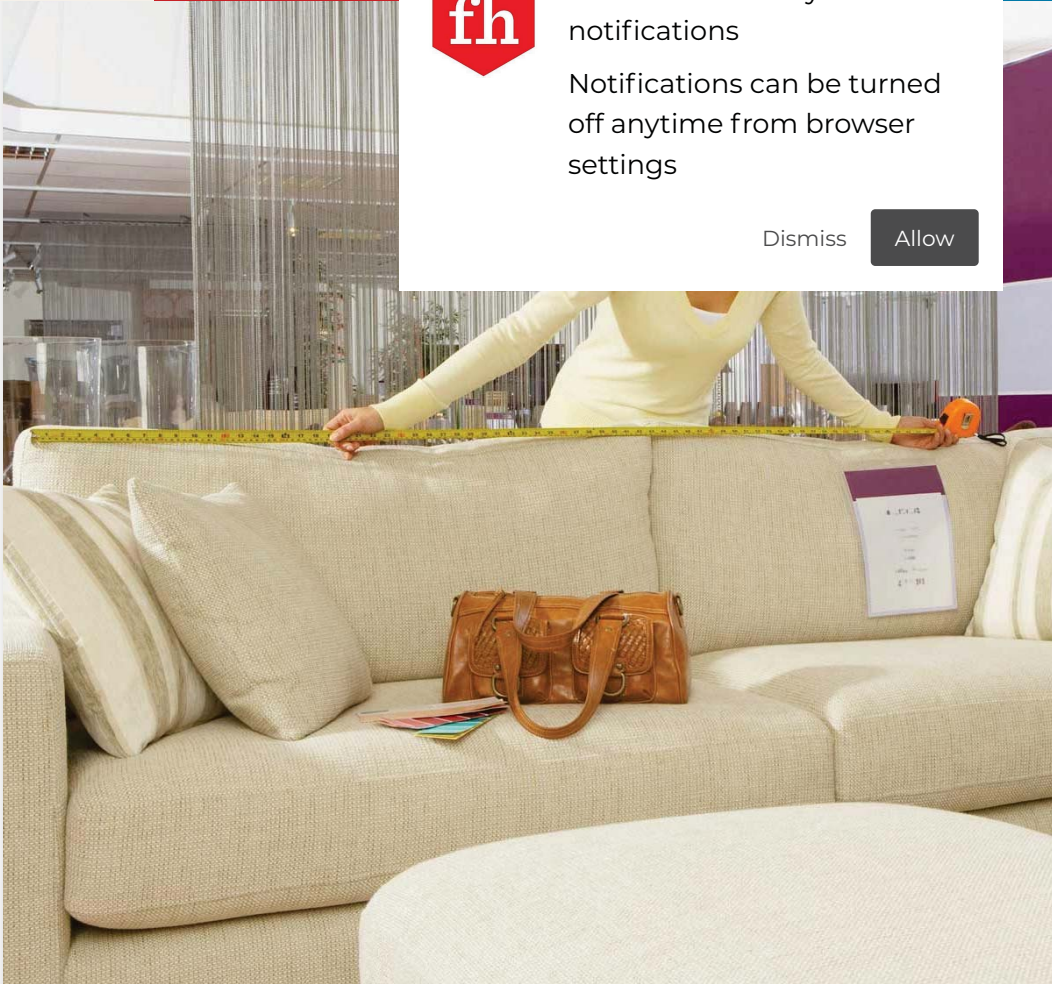


We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss

Allow



MARC LEON/GETTY IMAGES

Not Measuring Everything

You have to know precisely how much or how little space you're working with, whether you're [planning furniture](#), purchasing rugs or choosing artwork.

Besides length and width of your room, consider doorways, stairs, hallways, corners and elevators where furniture or [home décor](#) accessories may need to move through. The wrong-sized scale of furniture or art can make a room feel overcrowded or difficult to navigate. Too small, and your room feels like a dollhouse.

"We've had several clients who have bought rather expensive, beautiful furniture from other design firms, only to realize at the installation that it doesn't fit," says designer [Judi Schwarz, ASID](#). "It's a nightmare for the decorator and the client, and the client is left holding the bag for a costly mistake."

Your eye will tell you the proportion of the room. You want to enjoy the flow of your room. Be sure to measure what you're looking for.

ADVERTISEMENT

UGLY Countertops!
We repair & refinish **FAST!**

Before After!

ing feeling that won't allow you to feel relaxing and livable — just



We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings



Dismiss Allow

Cover Price: \$34.93

family handyman SMART HOME IMPROVEMENT

DIY PROJECT HIDDEN TV

WITH THE CLICK OF A BUTTON

LEARN FROM PRO TIPS FOR TO CHALLENGE PEX

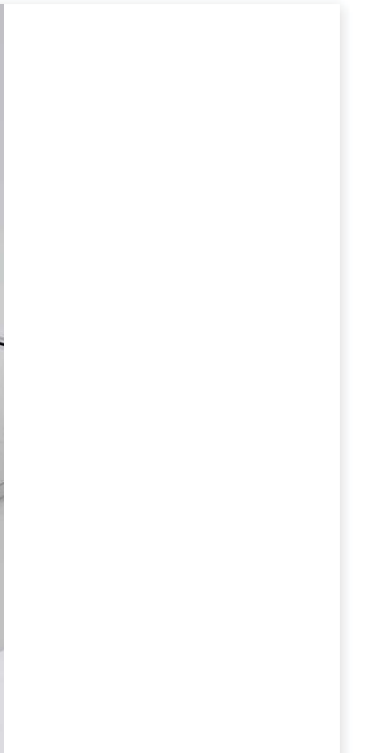
INSTALL A SHOWN IN 10 STEPS


NEXT-GENERATION OUTDOOR GRILLS


Save 71%

Subscribe Now ▶

3 / 10



Share 




We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss Allow

Next >



BESPALYI/GETTY IMAGES

Relying on Overhead Lighting

[Happy DIY Home](#) founder Jen Stark says using only [overhead lighting](#) is a mistake. “It doesn’t offer a lot of illumination, and it’s not very flattering,” she says. Instead, mix ambient, overhead and [task lighting](#) throughout your room.

“Use floor lamps, table lamps and sconces to create a warm look,” she says. “These things can all provide more light throughout the room, and it can also make the room — and anyone that sits in it — look better.”

Share



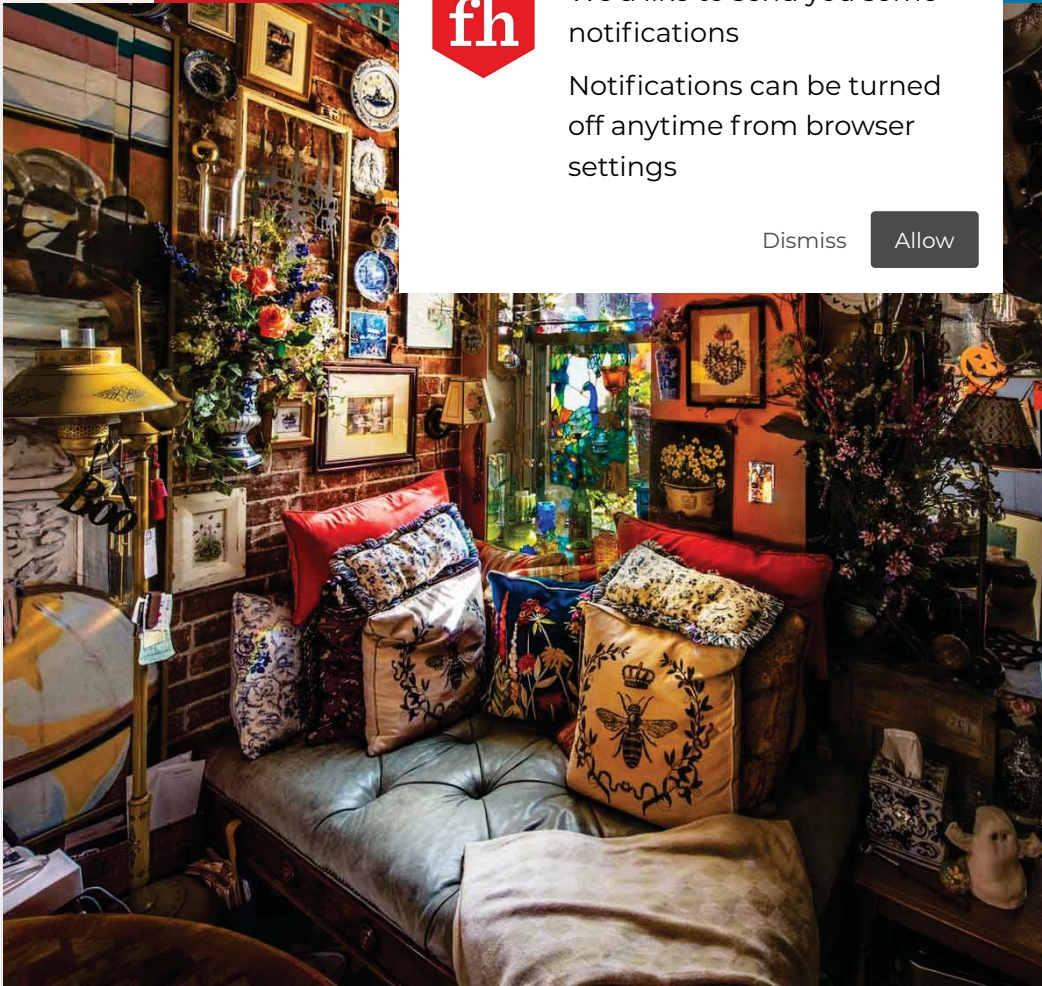
We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss

Allow

Next >



ED FREEMAN/GETTY IMAGES

Over-Accessorizing

Too much of a good thing is ... just too much.

“**Accessories** give a living space interest and distinction, and when you use items that truly mean something to you, they provide a deeper connection to your surroundings, speaking volumes about you,” says Heather Higgins, ASID, CID, of [Higgins Design Studio](#). “Unfortunately, it’s not uncommon, over time, to keep adding items without taking anything away, diluting their effectiveness.”

Removing even a few items can make a noticeable difference, she says. Higgins’ quick trick? “One of the simplest ways to instantly **refresh a space** without any financial investment is to remove all the accessories and put back half to two-thirds of them in different locations or new arrangements,” she says. “This will make the entire room feel new again.”

Share 



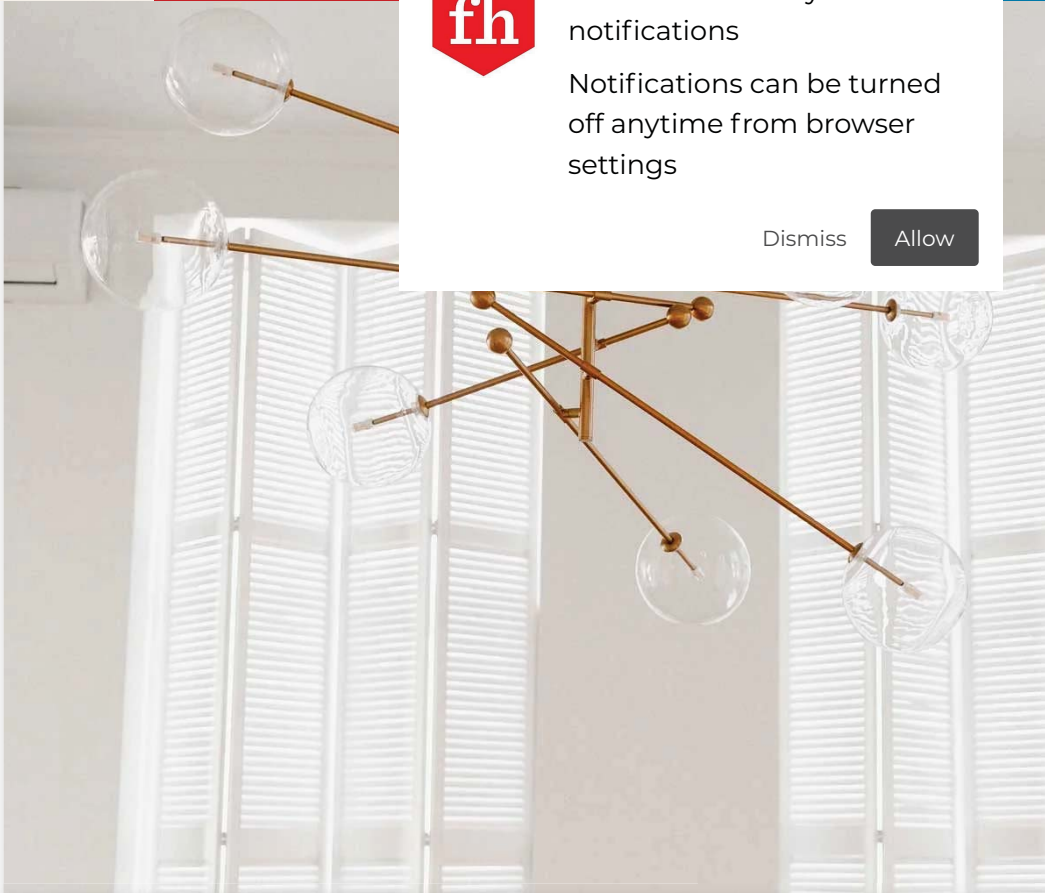
We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss

Allow

Next >



6 / 10

ghts


table is a really


led. And anyone
g the table. Too high
zy. It may also throw

ble surface, or people
tables seating six to

enter two-thirds of the

hung. Position the
ot ceilings. For every

Share 



We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss Allow

Next >

Being Too Match

Kelly says your spaces should be a style, not a retail showroom. Matched furniture sets are a bedroom. "I walk into a new client's bedroom and am hit in the face with matchy-matchy nightstands, dresser, tallboy and bed," Kelly says.

To add personality and thoughtfulness in any room, think coordination, not cloning. **Matching nightstands** are OK because symmetry is soothing, she says. But overall, she advises that you "find pieces you love that relate to one another, so your room looks more collected over time."

Already invested in a full set? Consider splitting the pieces throughout different rooms, and personalizing surfaces with your favorite collected items or mixing in textiles, such as runners or **throw pillows**.

Share



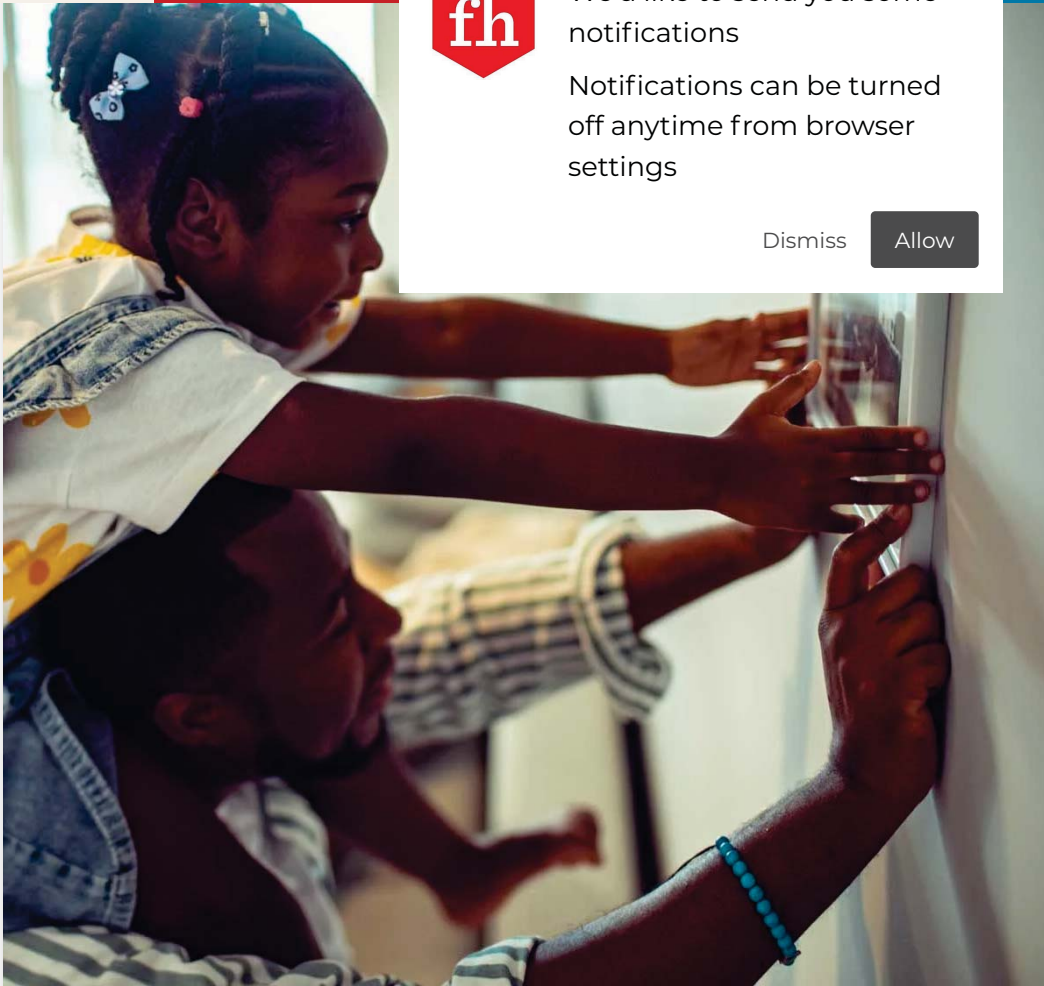
We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss

Allow

Next >



MARKO GEBER/GETTY IMAGES

Hanging Artwork Too High

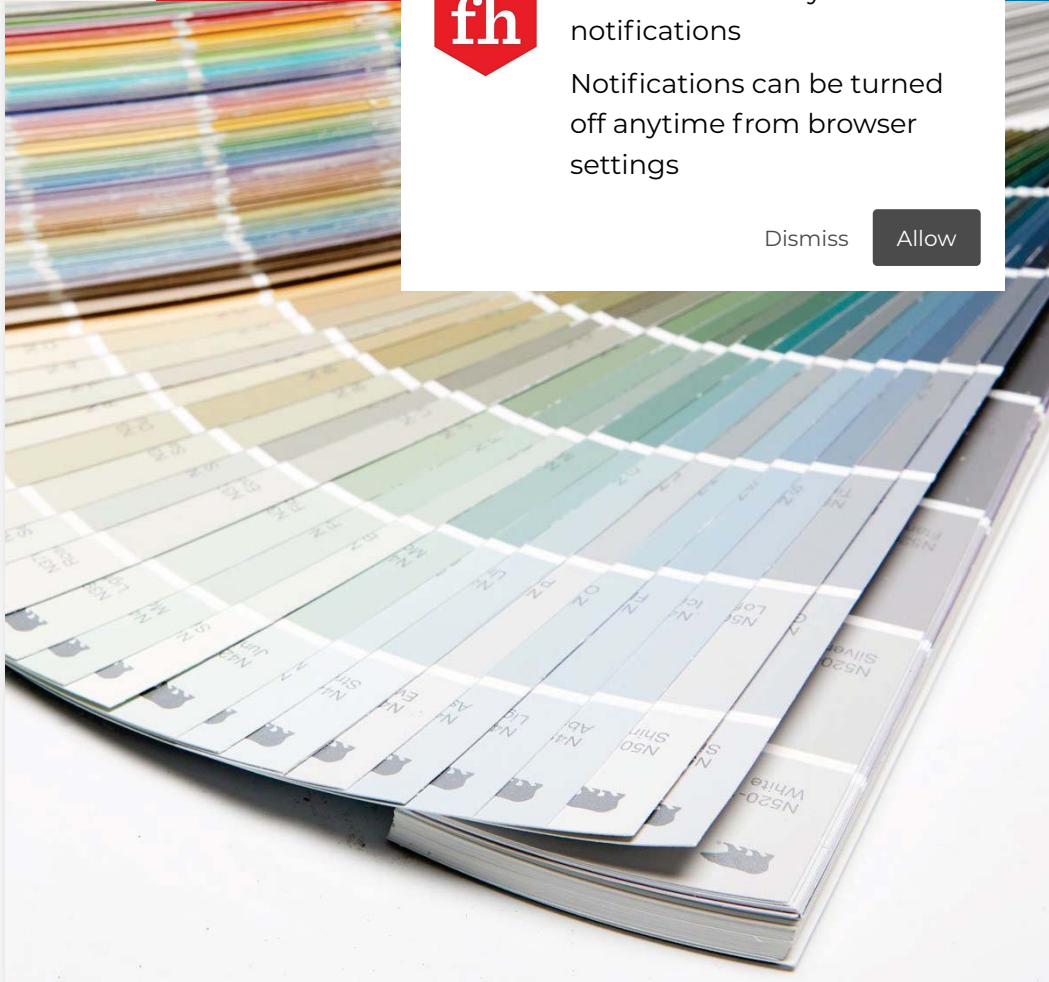
It's a common problem: [Hanging art](#) at the wrong height — usually too high. Art should be hung where everyone can see and enjoy it and where it can visually mingle with the other furnishings and décor in your room.

Jennifer Pacca, ASID, owner of [Jennifer Pacca Interiors](#), offers an easy rule of thumb for placing art: Hang it eye level, with your eye at the center of the piece. Households with adults of varying heights can simply compromise. Bridge any awkward gap created between furniture and art height by strategically placing furnishings, lighting and other elements in closely-hewed groups, she says.



We'd like to send you some notifications
Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss Allow



FAMILY HANDYMAN

Choosing Paint Color Incorrectly

“Color is a very tricky bit,” says **Renaissance Design Consultations** interior designer Sam Jernigan, IFDA. All white can fall flat or feel clinical, yellow tones can cast sickly hues, dark colors can make a room feel cramped. It all depends on the goal, the natural light (or lack thereof), and your overall design goals for your space.


Her best tip: Opt for some color, versus no or all-neutral color, at least on a **focal wall**.


9 / 10



best insurance for any
and then do a good

urately. And check
ting. Don't forget to

Share 

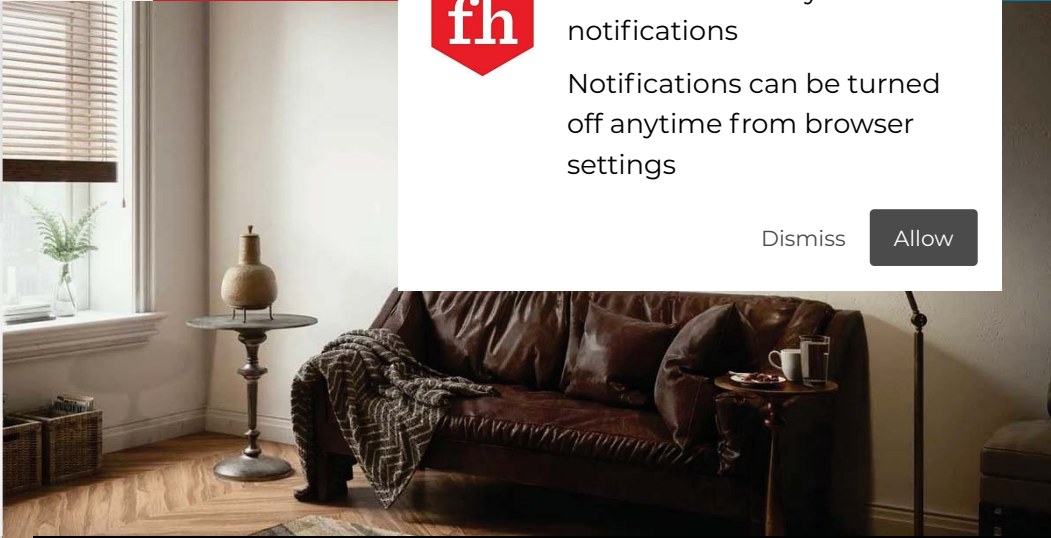


We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss Allow

Next >



BULGAC/GETTY IMAGES

Undersizing Area Rugs

"It's a very common decorating mistake to use postage stamp-sized rugs," Stark says. In general, your rug is too tiny if it can't fit the room's key furniture pieces. In a dining room, that means it should fit your table and all its chairs. In a bedroom, it should create a comfortable walkway all around the bed (no need to include the nightstands).

And in the living room, your [area rug](#) is too tiny if it can't fit all of the room's furniture on it, not just the coffee table. It is OK to cheat, however. Try placing just the front legs of your bigger furnishings, such as the sofa and chairs, on the rug's edge.

▶ 🔍 ⏪ 🔊 00:00 / 02:14 CC 🔗 📺 ⚙️ ↗️

Share 



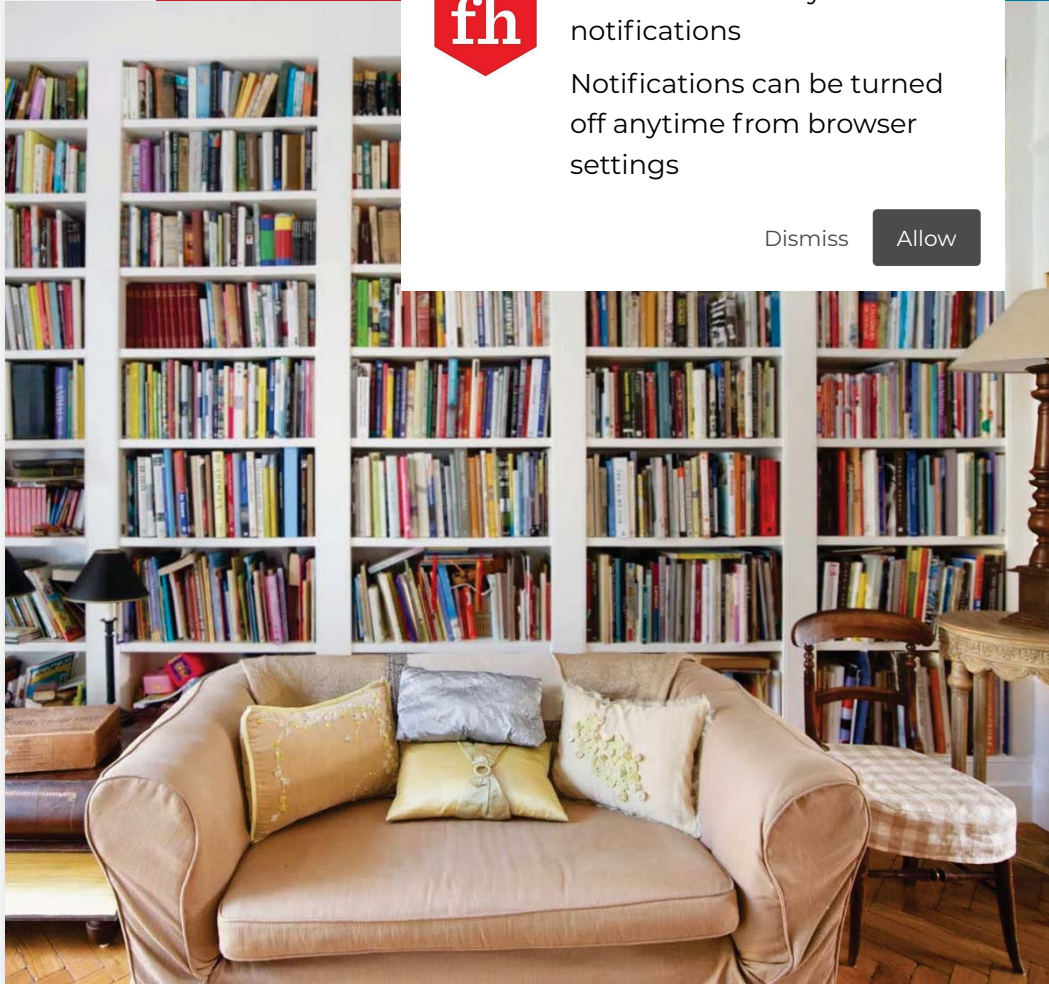
We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings

Dismiss

Allow

Next >



NEWTON DALY/GETTY IMAGES

Originally Published: April 22, 2021

Adding Too Many Furniture Pieces

"Small bookcases, too many small tables and side chairs can all visually overfill a given space"

Sign up for DIY projects sent right to your inbox

Complete DIY projects like a pro!
Sign up for our newsletter!

Sign Up



Subscribe & **SAVE**

1 Year Subscription for only \$10!

SUBSCRIBE NOW



We'd like to send you some notifications

Notifications can be turned off anytime from browser settings



Dismiss

Allow



About Us

Magazine

Skills

Pro

House

Outdoors

OUR BRANDS [Reader's Digest](#) | [Taste of Home](#) | [Birds & Blooms](#) | [The Healthy](#)

[Subscribe](#) | [Give a Gift](#) | [Advertise with Us](#) | [Customer Care](#) | [Content Submission](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Your CA Privacy Rights](#) | [Do Not Sell My Personal Information – CA Residents](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#) | [About Ads](#)

© 2021 Home Service Publications, Inc.

Sign Up For Our Newsletter

SIGN UP