



# LIVE in STYLE *Newsletter*

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**"A goal  
without a  
plan is just a  
wish."**

-- Antoine de  
Saint-Exupery

**LET'S SAVE  
SOME TREES:**

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**Your ideas and  
suggestions for  
the following  
issues are  
always  
welcome**

## **Style File: Reflect Your Style with Mirrors**

When it comes to catching and reflecting light in your home, nothing does it better than mirrors. Long used to make public places look bigger, these same tricks can be used in the smaller confines of your home. Beyond hanging in the entry hall or on the bedroom wall, mirrors can be used in surprising ways throughout the house.

For people who live in apartments or condominiums, window light can be limited. By adding a mirror or group of mirrors to those windowless walls, you can create the illusion of windows and reflect light into the space. Mirrors mounted inside old window frames with curtains hung over them can further enhance the illusion.

Collections of mirrors can be used instead of traditional art behind a sofa or in a hall way. Start with a large mirror and hang smaller size mirrors around it for an informal, eclectic feel. For a home full of antiques, you can choose mirrors with similar antique style frames, such as gold leaf.

Walls are not the only place for mirrors. Long, narrow mirrors are perfect under the centerpieces of dining room tables, especially for romantic, candlelit dinners. A cut-to-fit mirror can serve as the perfect cover for the top of a worn side table. Add a lamp or candles and you increase the sparkle in that corner of the room.

Placed in the back of display shelves they help show off your collections. Even if placed in the back of pantry shelves mirrors can reflect light and help locate items on deep shelves.

## **Furniture Tips: Romantic "Chair and a Half"**

**A chair and a half** makes a great purchase for any master suite. Many newer homes now have master suites, complete with a seating area to create the ultimate escape.

Whether you're enjoying the warmth of a fire or watching a movie at the end of a long day, a chair and a half gives you a comfortable place to sit. Sofas and love seats are often too big to fit into a master suite and separate chairs don't have the same romance as being able to curl up together.

A chair and a half solves these problems. Their smaller size makes them perfect for fitting into the smaller suite spaces while offering you the same comfort as a sofa. They comfortably fit two individuals and you can read, talk, watch TV, or just enjoy being together. The chairs also make a cozy spot for moms and dads to have some quiet time with their children.

For the ultimate comfort, look for a chair that has a matching ottoman. This way, you can put your feet up when you want and really relax.

You'll find a wide range of chairs and a half. Whether you like traditional, modern, casual or formal styles, you can find a chair that will fit in with the style. Like sofas and loveseats, these chairs can often be customized with any number of different patterns and fabrics.

## LIVE in STYLE

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## Décor Ideas: Organizing Kids' Rooms

You **can** organize kids' rooms in a fun and decorative way using the following ideas:

- **Choose beautiful furniture that doubles as storage.** Mirrored armoires and a built-in window desk will help to keep clutter off the floor
- **Go for stationary storage that's safe for kids.** Built-in cabinets, shelves and cubbies can house stuffed animals, art supplies, toys, shoes, bags and school supplies.
- **Share your room with your kids, but don't let them take over.** Install floor-to-ceiling drapery panels to divide play space from adult space, hiding the shelves and cubbies packed with toys in the family room. It's — literally — curtains for the clutter!
- **Divide the space with portable storage closets.** For teens almost ready to leave the nest, create the "real world" with separate living and sleeping areas in their space. Plus, they can take the storage with them when they (eventually) move out.
- **Window seats are just asking for bench storage.** A built-in bench seat with storage on either side for books and toys, plus more storage underneath for less-used items, like seasonal clothing.
- **Take off the closet door for easy access.** Replacing a door with a decorative curtain gives kids an incentive to stay organized, because they can see where to put clothes and toys away. A curtain can conceal clutter when necessary as well.
- **Create separate and communal areas to contain clutter between siblings.** In the rooms shared by siblings make space for separate beds, as well as an activity center to share in the middle. A toy box and table and chairs encourage sharing and play.

## Practical Ideas: Top 10 Home Updates

In an up-and-down real estate market it's important to make the right decisions when it comes to updating your home. This is how the top 10 improvements rank:

<b>#1 Minor Bathroom Remodel</b> (under \$10.000)	Average return at resale: 102%
<b>#2 Landscaping</b>	Average return at resale: 100%
<b>#3 Minor Kitchen Remodel</b> (under \$15.000)	Average return at resale: 98.5%
<b>#4 Exterior Improvements</b> (Vinyl Siding, Paint, Updated Front Entry)	Average return at resale: 95.5%
<b>#5 Attic Bedroom Conversion</b>	Average return at resale: 93.5%
<b>#6 Major Bathroom Remodel</b> (over \$10.000)	Average return at resale: 93.2%
<b>#7 Major Kitchen Remodel</b> (over \$15.000)	Average return at resale: 91%
<b>#8 Deck or Patio Addition</b>	Average return at resale: 90.3%
<b>#9 Basement Remodel</b>	Average return at resale: 90.1%
<b>#10 Replacement Windows</b>	Average return at resale: 89.6%