



LIVE in STYLE *Newsletter*

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LIVE IN STYLE 613-721-3342 WWW.LIVEINSTYLE.CA

"A house is a home when it shelters the body and comforts the soul."

Phillip Moffitt

LET'S SAVE SOME TREES:

If you are still receiving my newsletters printed on paper, PLEASE send your e-mail address to mila@liveinstyle.ca to receive future issues electronically

Your ideas and suggestions for the following issues are always welcome

Style File: Cork Flooring

Cork Flooring is a completely natural flooring product. As far as its features and innate benefits are concerned, no man-made material can substitute or replace cork.

Cork is not a newly introduced flooring material. It has been used in flooring for well over 100 years. It was first used in the United States circa 1890 and became popular when renowned American architect Frank Lloyd Wright chose cork flooring for many of his home designs. Some famous buildings where cork flooring was used are the First Congressional Church in Chicago and the old Toronto Stock Exchange.

Cork flooring comes from the bark of the cork oak species. The bark is harvested without any negative environmental impact on individual cork oaks, in fact the bark re-grows and can be harvested again in 9 to 12 years. This makes cork flooring among the most environmentally friendly of flooring materials.

Cork flooring is regarded as one of the best choices in flooring for natural sound insulation ever produced. It actually absorbs ambient sound and generally reduces noise. This makes for a calm interior atmosphere.

Cork is among the best flooring options for people with allergies. Due to the presence of Suberin, a naturally occurring substance, it resists the growth of mold, mildew, and bacteria.

Cork flooring is naturally fire resistant. It also does not release any toxic gases on combustion.

Cork flooring is exclusively warm under foot and insulates heat and cold.

Cork is considered as one of the comfortable most flooring options available. It has a unique cellular structure, with millions of cells enclosed with a gaseous substance. It gives a soft feeling to the feet and joints of people walking and standing on cork floors for long.

Cork floors are very durable in nature. They have a very long life and can be repaired if damaged.

Cork flooring is very compressible and elastic. If heavy weight or a sudden impact has caused a dent in the cork floor, it will resume to its original shape over a period of time once the pressure is released.

Furniture Tips: The Chaise Longue

The Chaise Longue (or Lounge) or Long Chair as the word translates from the French is a chair shaped couch designed to allow the user to be either seated or recumbent. A Chaise is a stylish and glamorous way to rest or recline, a great place to relax, read or watch television.

The early Egyptians used something akin to a Chaise Longue, a piece of furniture that made no distinction between a bed for sleeping, and a place for lying in the day time. The Romans developed a day bed for reclining solely whilst eating. In fact, in one design or another, this type of chair/bed/sofa has existed in almost all cultures from Mesopotamia to South America, from China to France.

Today, there are important considerations to make when purchasing a Chaise. The first depends upon where you intend to use the Chaise in your home. Some people purchase them as stylish additional seating for their living area. These customers should choose a Chaise Longue's design, colour and material to suit the other furniture and surroundings in the room.

Furthermore, you need to consider how it will be used in its new location. If you have a particular intended use, such as a comfortable place to relax or just somewhere to sit and read the newspaper undisturbed, then selecting the type of cushions, arms and back support is essential to getting the greatest comfort from your Chaise.

LIVE in STYLE

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Décor Ideas: Decorating with African Masks

One of the most popular masks to use in home decorating today is masks of Africa. First, they are very versatile. The many tribes of ancient Africa varied quite a bit, with different decorative properties emerging from each. This means you can find African masks in many styles and colors.

Masks of Africa are great for use in almost any room in your home. You might choose to hang them on the wall in your living room to compliment a natural-themed decorating scheme. These masks go great with dark wood, leather, and other natural decorating choices. Or you might choose to place an African mask in a carefully decorated, animal-themed guest room. Your guests will feel as though they are camping on safari!

Masks can also make a great choice for dining room décor. Use nature-inspired table linens and several beautiful African masks to spice up your dinner parties and dining experiences. Or turn your patio or deck into an intimate space with smaller African masks, teak patio furniture, and several animal print rugs. Anyone who spends time in such a lovely decorated space will feel like they've been on vacation.

Practical Ideas: Drapery Lining

You've probably noticed that almost none of the ready-made drapery panels sold in stores are lined. To keep the price down, manufacturers skip the lining. But if you have draperies custom made, they are lined whether they will be covering the whole window or will be just stationary panels.

Lining actually originated back in the Middle Ages as a way to insulate the windows, as well as provide additional security and privacy in a room. Even though our homes now have insulated windows, lining does more than add cost to your treatment; lining serves an important function to the look and life of your draperies.

Lining adds body to the fabric, prevents clinging and eliminates any see-through in the fabric, and it creates a uniform look from the outside (lining usually comes in white or ivory only). Plus, lined drapes hang better by offering shape retention to the fabric and add an unwrinkled effect. Another important reason to line your draperies is to protect your fabric from fading and sun rot.

There are a couple of different weights and types of lining for you to consider:

- Lightweight lining comes in either 100 percent cotton or a cotton/polyester blend and is good to use on heavy fabrics and where sun protection is not necessary (north-facing windows)
- Medium-weight lining (dim-out lining) is normally a blend of cotton and polyester and blocks about 50% of the light. It is good with most light-to-medium weight fabrics.
- Black-out lining is considered a heavyweight lining that is normally used in bedrooms to block out any light.

The only type of fabric that you wouldn't line is a sheer as you would be taking away the beauty and characteristics of the fabric.