

# Spend vs. Save

by SARA DUCK

**J**ust bought a new home and on a tight budget? Don't fret! With expert advice from Toronto-based interior stylist Paul Semkuley, we show you where to spend and save for each room in your house.



**PAUL SEMKULEY**  
Toronto-based interior stylist is principal of Re:Source Lifestyles. He combines his love of art, fashion and design to offer a unique styling and design firm. Visit [resourcelifestyles.com](http://resourcelifestyles.com)

SAVE:

## BEDROOM



Emmie Spets Sheet Set in White.  
\$45. Visit [ikea.ca](http://ikea.ca)

SPEND:  
MATTRESS AND BOX SPRING  
APPROX:  
\$1,500 - \$3,000

Although it is the least glamorous item to buy for the bedroom, it is the most important. A good mattress will make all the difference in getting your beauty sleep each night. "The mattress should last you at least 10 years," says interior stylist Paul Semkuley. "Especially when you purchase it with the coordinating box spring – as it absorbs up to 50 per cent of the body's impact." Semkuley also suggests getting comfy and cosy in store by laying on it like you would normally sleep, to see if the mattress is a right fit. Whether you prefer a mattress that is firm, made of organic material or one that comes with a pillow top for extra comfort, buy the best one you can afford.

Table Lamp.  
\$70. Visit [bouclair.com](http://bouclair.com)



Hemnes Three Drawer Chest in Gray-Brown.  
\$150. Visit [ikea.ca](http://ikea.ca)



Seagrass Block Headboard.  
\$200-\$390. Visit [pier1.ca](http://pier1.ca)



**TIP:** Don't try to save money by using an old foundation or box spring with your new mattress. A mattress paired with its new box spring work together for all around better support, and keeps the mattress in shape longer.

**FACT:** A study conducted in the U.S., Canada, Mexico, UK, Germany and Japan found that a comfortable sleep surface and cosy sheets and bedding were rated the most important romantic elements in all six countries.

## KITCHEN

SPEND:

FREE-STANDING RANGE

APPROX:

\$2,000-\$5,000

Appliance shopping can be daunting – especially when you are deciding on a big purchase such as a free-standing range (hot plate on top, oven underneath). But this important appliance will make your cooking life easier if you spend a little more on a quality piece that is tailored to your needs. “Having a gourmet range will make a huge statement in your kitchen. It will definitely add value to your home while you live there and especially if you plan to sell your home,” says Semkuley.

**TIP:** There are plenty of options when it comes to your range, such as gas, electric and induction. Determine which type of fuel you will use based on what you have available and your personal cooking preference.

**FACT:** A study conducted by Visa Canada suggests 60 per cent of Canadians eat out once or more a week.

SAVE:

Gourmet Settings Non-Stop Flatware.

\$50 for 20-piece. Visit [bedbathandbeyond.ca](http://bedbathandbeyond.ca)



Bodum Chambord Four Cup French Press with Locking Lid.  
\$50. Visit [thebay.com](http://thebay.com)

Royal Doulton Gordon Ramsay Maze White Dinnerware.

\$100 for 16-piece. Visit [bedbathandbeyond.ca](http://bedbathandbeyond.ca)



Hamilton Beach 1.7L Dome Electric Kettle.  
\$60. Visit [thebay.com](http://thebay.com)

## LIVING ROOM

SPEND: SOFA

APPROX: \$3,500-\$5,000

The living room is the main hub of any home. It's where you will do most of your entertaining and it's the place you will go to snuggle and watch movies together. It's important, then, that you invest in a sofa that not only looks good, but is comfortable, durable and functional for your space. Paying a little extra now, means a sofa that will last through the years. “When you have great bones in a sofa, you can always reupholster it, knowing that you will have the comfort that you have enjoyed for so many years,” says Semkuley.

SAVE:

Sequined Striped Pillow.

\$49. Visit [chapters.indigo.ca](http://chapters.indigo.ca)



Bendale Rug by Korhani Home.  
\$134 for 5x7. Visit [rona.ca](http://rona.ca)

SAVE:

## BATHROOM



Simply Fine Lenox Chirp Bath Ensemble.  
\$50. Visit [bedbathandbeyond.ca](http://bedbathandbeyond.ca)

Fiona Bath Towels in Coral.  
\$ 14. Visit [bedbathandbeyond.ca](http://bedbathandbeyond.ca)



The Beverly Mirror by Tangerine Mirror Co.  
\$80 for 24 by 26-in. Visit [homedepot.ca](http://homedepot.ca)

Heritage Aged Iron Chandelier by Hampton Bay.  
\$99. Visit [homedepot.ca](http://homedepot.ca)



You may think this is an odd pick to invest your money in, but the vanity is a key item for the bathroom. Don't forget you will be using the vanity every day, multiple times, opening and closing doors and exposing it to moisture. "The most important need of the vanity must be function," says Semkuley. "Spending more on cabinetry that is made of solid wood will last much longer in a "wet" environment, than those made of a pressed wood compound."

**TIP:** Buy a vanity that is proportioned to your space. You may have room for a big vanity but little room for anything else.

**FACT:** In 1890, the Scott Paper Company manufactured toilet paper on a roll, much as we know it today.

Floor Lamp.  
\$140. Visit [bouclair.com](http://bouclair.com)



Box Frame Coffee Table in Mango Wood.  
\$429. Visit [westelm.com](http://westelm.com)



**TIP:** When sofa shopping, look for a sturdy frame, one that does not wobble or creak but sits squarely on the floor. Also, pay attention to fabric detail – you want a fabric that will wear well for every day use.

**FACT:** According to BBM Canada, the average Canadian adult watches 30 hours of television a week.