

Go for cozy and comfortable this fall



**PAUL SEMKULEY
LIVING IN
STYLE**

The seasons have changed, the kids are back in school and so begins a new quarter of a new season. The warmer weather extended itself into October, but now there is a crispness to the air that is beginning to show that fall is here and it's not going away anytime soon.

So how does this affect how we live in our decorated homes? Well, it affects us in many ways. We now have to turn on the heat, turn on more lights and start to layer ourselves with additional clothing.

When I decorate homes for my clients, I am always considering that we have a four season environment to work with, some of those seasons being much longer than we want them to be. But how can we bring seasonal variation to our homes without changing the entire foundation of furniture: by changing up your accessories and soft goods.

Changing out your accessories is one of the easiest ways to reflect the current season, and by doing this you can embrace your surroundings with different elements. As we coordinate the fabrics for our client's rooms, I like to include various other textures and colours that would still compliment the room, just in a different season.

Fall time is the perfect time to introduce suede, leather,

and wools in patterns like plaids and checks, with some knits too, that give you a sense of warmth and coziness.

Adding blankets and throws to your rooms, perhaps casually strewn over the arm of a chair or sofa, stacking them in a pile, or rolling them up in a basket makes for easy access to use when you the temperatures really start to drop. Adding some walnuts to a decorative bowl on your coffee table brings some additional seasonal texture.

Floral arrangements should also reflect the season; Chrysanthemums with branches of

berries and wild flowers, amaranth and protea with grasses, or feathers and acorns in bell jar. All of these new accessory changes will transform your home and rooms into something new.

Other seasonal modification can include swapping out your draperies with ones more suiting to the season. This you may want to consider every six months and do a switch at fall/winter and then spring summer.

Drapes rarely get soiled, but they do collect a lot of dust, so this is the perfect time to have them professionally cleaned while you hang a new set of drapery panels.

I also like to encourage at least two (three is best) of different bed linens so that you can stay warmer or cooler, depending on the season. These could include changing out the euro and front pillow shams with cozier fabrics as well as adding a blanket or

coverlet at the end of the bed.

One seasonal switch that most people forget about is their artwork. I have heard many of my clients not wanting to purchase a piece of art because it looked too seasonal. This can be true, but you buy art because you love it and that may involve changing it up every four or six months depending on the season. There are so many things that we love and treasure, but they don't always have to be out. Having a space or closet that can store your other favorite accessories gives you the ability alternate and transform your place into something new every season.

Customizing your home with an interior decorator provides you with various accessories, artwork and fabrics of different textures and colours, to ensure your home looking new each and every season. So, put that outdoor rake down and leave the leaves to

someone else's to-do-list. Lets get started on making your home a cozy and comfortable fall retreat.

Design Tips For Fall

- Change up your decorative pillows with new seasonal type fabrics and prints.
- To reduce heating costs, have additional cozy blankets and throws to cuddle up with.

- If you don't have a fireplace, burn scented candles for added ambiance.
- Fresh flowers are great all year round. Choose arrangements that are harmonious with the season.

— Paul Semkuley is principal of Re:Source Lifestyle, a Toronto-based interior design firm that combines art, fashion and design to offer unique styling solutions. Visit www.resourcestyle.com.



One seasonal switch that most people forget about is changing out their artwork.



Use accessories such as fabrics of different textures and colours to ensure your home looks new and fresh in each and every season.

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