Tips for Making Your Home Cozy & Inviting

A cozy living space could include a soft rug, pillows and warm lighting. Aim to make the area feel warm and inviting without being overly complicated.

The meaning of the term "cozy" varies as it pertains to home decor. For some, cozy may mean intimate spaces with lots of quilts and throws. For others, cozy could indicate bright and airy spaces enhanced by plenty of fresh foliage.

Regardless of how they define cozy, homeowners typically want their homes to be inviting and comfortable. With that in mind, here are some ways to impart a cozy vibe to any living space.

Fireplace

Make use of a fireplace. Flames lapping wood, or faux wood in the event of gas-powered fireplaces, can put anyone in a tranquil state of mind. Fireplaces add instant ambiance and make great places for people to congregate and engage in

conversation. During warmer months when the fire isn't blazing, decorative candles can be lit to mimic the same feel.

Texture

Add texture in the design. Texture can be anything from a raised pattern on wallpaper to a knotty area rug to a mosaic piece of artwork. A home with texture tends to create cozier impressions than one with all sleek and smooth surfaces.

Rugs

Enjoy a soft rug. Although many design experts say hardwood floors or laminate options are easier for allergies and keeping a home clean, a soft rug underfoot can be welcoming. Rather than wall-to-wall carpeting, place area rugs in spots that can use some cozying up, such as beneath beds and even under the dining table.

Candles

Light candles. The warm, flickering light of candles adds cozy vibes in spades. According to The Spruce and Paula Boston, a visual merchandiser for Festive Lights, candles can be used throughout a home to create instant atmosphere.

Exercise caution with candles and fully extinguish them before retiring for the evening. Be sure to keep an eye on your pets around candles as well. Consider flameless candles as an alternative.

Bedding

Update bedding for the season. Crisp and light cotton and linen are cozy materials when the weather is warm. But when the temperature starts to dip, flannel or jersey bedding makes a bed that is much more inviting, says Real Simple magazine.

Pillows

Invest in lots of pillows. Pillows can instantly make a spot cozier, whether it's the living room sofa or an outdoor lounging nook. Look for materials that are durable for the space in which they're being used.

Warm lighting

Think about warm lighting. The transition from incandescent light bulbs to halogen and LED is beneficial from an environmental standpoint. However, LEDs illuminate with a more stark, blue light that can seem clinical in home spaces. Look for bulbs where the "temperature" can be customized. The more the color spectrum leans toward warm light, the cozier a space will feel. This can be enhanced by putting some lights on dimmer switches and toning down the brightness as needed.

Bookshelves

Install a bookshelf. Even for those who are strict devotees of e-readers, a shelf full of actual books interspersed with some well-placed knickknacks can make a room feel cozier. Books add texture, the feel of hallowed halls and libraries, and visual appeal.

Making a home cozier doesn't have to be complicated. A few easy modifications can improve interior spaces.