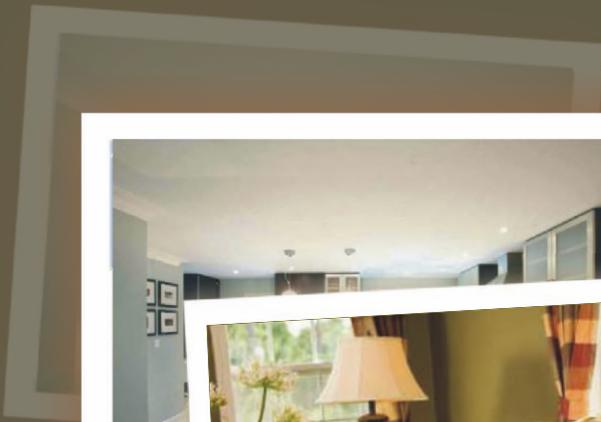


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HOME DECORATING/ REDECORATING ON A BUDGET

Luxurious Decorating Tips for Your Home Using a Lean Budget



INTRODUCTION

It seems like these days, we are all looking for ways to keep our budget in check. However, you do not want to spend all of your time keeping your budget under such tight control that you cannot even enjoy your way of life. This is why the best thing to do is find ways to do things in your life and save money while doing them. Consider home decorating for instance.

Economic times like these days often mean we cut extraneous things from our budget. You may be thinking that decorating or redecorating your house fits into this category. You may be thinking that decorating your home will cost just too much money. However, this means that you could be leaving your home that does not suit you and does not fit your personality.

Of course, you do not want to leave your home plain and boring. This, after all, is not very much to come home to everyday. In order to be able to enjoy living in your home, you need to make sure it is decorated or redecorated in a manner that truly emphasizes your personality and your tastes and interests.

How can you do this on a budget? You can actually turn a lean budget into a luxurious home redecoration. All you need to do is find money saving tips and tricks. In this guide, you will find room by room details on how to redecorate your home on a tight budget. This guide will help you make the changes in your home that you want.



ROOM BY ROOM REDOCARATING

No matter the room in your house, you can redecorate it to fit your personality and you can still stay on budget. Here are some easy tips for decorating every room in your home for very little money.

THE PLAYROOM

The first thing to remember about the playroom when you are working on a budget is to consider the future. Since your child will be growing quickly, you will want to make decisions and choices that will be fun for them now while remaining easy to change and useful in the future. When you are working on a budget, look for items that can easily grow with your child.

Here are some quick tips to make a playroom fun and exciting yet affordable and budget friendly:

1. Painting is a quick and easy way to make a room look new. Choose bright colors, but colors that will continue to be favored for years to come.
2. Gloss paint is easy to clean and will help the playroom remain bright for many years. Since small hands tend to leave handprints on walls, choosing an easy to clean paint will be important in any playroom space, so avoid paints marked matte or eggshell.
3. For something different, removable wallpaper murals are fun and thematic. They can be placed on one wall and then removed as the child grows older.
4. Inexpensive, brightly colored, plastic storage crates can be stacked to create a set of cubby holes for storage and they will be within easy reach of small hands.
5. An inexpensive roll of cork can turn part of a wall into a display board for your child's artwork. You can also find rolls of chalkboard material, and you can turn a wall into a board for your children to write and draw and then erase and start again.
6. For easy wall art, take an old child's magazine or book, cut out illustrations or cartoons and then frame them in simple and affordable black or white frames. You can also use DVD covers from their favorite cartoons for the same purpose.
7. Consider that old coffee table you have in the garage. It can easily be turned into a child's play station with just a fresh coat of paint. An old dresser or chest repainted can be a great way to store toys.
8. Built in storage for closets can turn the closet in the playroom into a great place to store toys, books, and games.
9. Peruse garage sales for old pieces of furniture that can easily be refurbished for your child's play room. You may be surprised at what you can find at thrift stores, antique malls, and garage sales.
10. Avoid putting too much money into maintaining a theme since your child will likely outgrow that theme in just a matter of years. Instead, choose colors and decorations that can be updated for a new look as your child grows.

BATHROOM

A bathroom is actually quite easy to decorate or redecorate even on the tightest budgets. It does not take that many changes to completely redo your bathroom for a whole new look and feel. Whether you just moved into a new home and your starting with a clean slate or you just want a new look for your current bathroom, you can do so affordably.

Here are some quick tips to completely refresh your bathroom at a low cost:

1. Go buy a shower curtain. You may think this should be a last purchase. However, if you buy it before anything else, you can actually base the colors of the rest of the room on that curtain. It is a good place to start.

2. Use paint, not wallpaper. All that humidity will cause wallpaper to bubble and peel. Choose a gloss paint that will stand up well in the wet conditions and this will save you money in the future.

3. Consider your bathroom mirror. If you have just a plain frameless mirror, you can easily frame it with wainscoting that can be purchase unfinished at home improvement stores. You can create a frame and paint it any color you wish to go along with your bathroom theme.

4. Switch plates and outlet covers can easily be changed out for a few dollars and they can make a big difference in the room. You can purchase them new or you can get adventurous and look for interesting and unique used ones online or at garage sales.

5. If you have an unsightly cabinet, you can purchase affordable fabrics, attach Velcro to one side and create a skirting of sorts that will cover the cabinet and create a new look for the room.

6. Find an old basket and recycle it to display towels which are rolled into neat display items or fun and decorative shampoo, body wash or bubble bath bottles.

7. Updating the flooring is a great way to give a bathroom a new look and can be affordable. Stick on tiles are inexpensive and when installed correctly, appealing to the eye.

8. Look for small items that can be displayed in bowls, like decorative soaps, seashells and marbles. These items can usually be found at dollar stores and you can use plain glass or ceramic bowls.

9. Potpourri is another inexpensive option which will make the bathroom more fragrant and will renew its scent when the bathroom warms up from showers or baths.

10. Greenery can easily liven up a bathroom. If you have a window, you can add a live plant. If you do not, affordable artificial plants like ivy can adorn the tops of cabinets.

12. Purchase affordable plain towels from the department store. Then, cut strips of fabric that go along with the theme of the bathroom. You can quickly hem the fabric and sew it to the bottom of your inexpensive towels to create matching linens that are sure to be eye catching.

13. Replace all the light bulbs with energy efficient ones. This way, you can continue saving money in the future.

14. If you cannot repaint, then purchase some fun wall art from a garage sale or a thrift store for just a few dollars and this will give your bathroom whole new look.

BEDROOM

Many people do not even think about redecorating the bedroom simply because they feel the cost will be too high. It is true that decorating in the bedroom could be expensive if you allow it to be. However, there are plenty of ways that you can stick to a tight budget and still enjoy redecorating for a bedroom to show your personality.

Often, the bedroom is neglected for the budgetary reasons mentioned above but also because it is easy to forgo this room and work on those rooms that your friends and family will see the most. However, since you spend a great deal of your own time in the bedroom, why not decorate it in a way that brings happiness to you? You should enjoy spending time in your bedroom, and it should provide peace and comfort in the evenings so that you can sleep well.

Here are plenty of tips and tricks that you can take in order to redecorate your bedroom even on a small budget.

1. Choose a paint color that fits your taste but is also lasting. Think about something that you will enjoy now and years into the future.
2. If you want something unique, you can consider textured paint or you can even take the time to create a textured feel with ragging or sponging.
3. Wallpaper is always a nice option and it does not have to be expensive, especially if you consider wallpaper murals or cut outs that will turn one wall into an easy focal point. Look for these wallpaper murals that are removable. This way, if you get tired of the decoration in the future, you can easily replace it without damaging the walls.
4. If purchasing new curtains is out of the budget, visit the craft section of your local department store. You can find fabrics that will be much more affordable and can easily be turned into the perfect curtains for your newly decorated bedroom.
5. If you find an affordable fabric that you love, you may even consider using it to cover a chair if you have one in the room. Creating slipcovers for chairs or reupholstering them does not have to take a large amount of time, and can be completed by you at a low cost.
6. Use leftover fabric to make slipcovers for throw pillows, or if you are especially good with the sewing machine, you can create brand new pillows with the fabric.
7. New bedding can completely change the look of a bedroom. If there is one item in the room that you plan to spend a little more on, then let it be bedding in a new style and color that will suit your personality.
8. If you just do not have room in your budget for bedding, then consider purchasing numerous inexpensive decorative throw pillows. A bed piled with these pillows will be a nice look without the cost of bedding.
9. Do you need a nightstand or a side table? Visit your local home improvement store and purchase a circular piece of plywood. Use an old existing trashcan as the base and glue the plywood to the top to create a table. You can cover it with a premade table cloth or you can make your own if you are using fabric in the room.

10. Move things around. You may be surprised how much of a different look you can achieve simply by rearranging furniture. Consider doing something totally different like placing your bed in the corner and then angling out into the room.

11. Alter the lighting. Again, a free way to change the look of the room is to move the lighting about in different ways. Experiment with where you place your lamps until you get the lighting just right for the space.

12. A bench at the foot of the bed can be useful and decorative, but also fairly pricey. Visit yard sales and thrift stores to find an old coffee table or an old garden bench. Then you can repaint and add fabric or cushions to the top and have your very own, unique bench for the foot of your bed, and it will cost a fraction of the price.

13. Do you wish you had an elaborate headboard? You can create the illusion of one. Cut a piece of plywood the width of your bed. Use fabric and batting along with hot glue to cover the plywood and create a plush feel. Then, attach the plywood to the wall at the head of your bed.

14. Garage sales and thrift stores are a great way to find new and affordable wall art. Look for pieces that you will love for years to come, and pieces that are framed in a neutral manner so that they will remain timeless.

15. You can recycle your existing furniture by painting it. Choose a neutral color that will look refreshed and new in your room while remaining timeless so that you can enjoy it in the future. Purchase new, inexpensive pull knobs for dresser drawers and doors.

16. Instead of purchasing small décor items at a regular store, visit a craft store where you will find candles and small items for a much lower price. You can then group them on shelves, table tops and other locations to create interesting focal points.

17. Look around the other rooms of your home. You may discover decorative items that you can recycle in the bedroom for a whole new look. Do not be afraid to “go shopping” in your own home.

18. As with any other room in the house, before you even start redecorating your bedroom, consider what style, mood or theme you are trying to accomplish. If you keep this in mind throughout the redecoration process, you will avoid unnecessary expenses that could arise now or in the future.

DINING ROOM

A dining room can truly be one of the more challenging rooms to decorate on a budget simply because the furnishings for this room are usually some of the more expensive items that can be purchased for a home. However, there are still plenty of affordable ways that you can redecorate your dining room.

Have you looked at the room and just passed it by with the thought that a dining room is what it is? Many people think too that there is just not much to be done in a dining room. However, this room can be redecorated and refreshed just like any other and you can enjoy a new and fun look that will be sure to make you happy every time you sit down for a meal.

Here are some easy ways to redecorate your dining room without breaking the bank.

1. Start with the walls. Do not assume that just because it is the dining room, you cannot be creative with color. For this space, consider a darker paint color that will make the dining room feel more cozy and warm and will create an intimate dining setting.
2. If you would like something different, avoid wallpaper, which can be pricey, and considered textured paint. This option will still be affordable, and the textured paints available today are easy to apply.
3. If you are tired of the look of your dining room furniture, you can always consider repainting it as well. This will give even the older or scuffed up furniture a new look and a new life.
4. Keep your dining room table and shop garage sales or thrift stores for new chairs. For a truly unique look, choose mismatched chairs that all have a common style or color while creating bold and interesting look for the room.
5. Since tablecloths can be expensive, consider a more affordable table runner or visit a fabric store and choose an inexpensive and light piece of fabric to create your own unique table covering.
6. Instead of buying new fresh flowers every few weeks for the dining room table, purchase several different types of artificial flowers and then create new bouquets each time you want to spruce up the table centerpieces.
7. If you would like to purchase new furniture items, look for the types that are marked “ready-to-assemble.” These pieces will take a little work from you since you will need to put them together but they will be much more affordable.
8. Think outside the box when it comes to wall art. If you have a rustic or country style dining room, then look for old used items like shutters or even an old wooden screen door to use on the walls.
9. You can also find affordable wall art at thrift stores and garage sales. If you shop out of season, you may be surprised to find affordable wall art that other people are selling in order to buy new seasonal items.

10. Centerpieces do not have to break the budget to be unique and stylish. Consider using a decorative flower pot to store silverware rolled in napkins. Recycle a bud vase with just a couple of daisies or roses for a minimalistic look. A bowl filled with water with floating flower buds or decorative rocks can be inexpensive and unique.

11. Lighting can be expensive when purchased new; however, garage sales can be treasure troves for finding chandeliers, accent lighting and even sconces for extremely affordable prices. If you would prefer to avoid garage sales, then visit online auction sites to look for lighting as well.

12. Instead of replacing flooring, consider purchasing a new rug or runner which can be placed under the dining room table for a new and fresh spruce up to old floors.

13. You do not have to break the bank in small décor items for the room. Since in the dining space, less is more for knickknacks, just look for a few key items that will draw the eye without feeling cluttered. Visit craft stores or thrift stores to find these items for a lower price.

14. Remember that in the dining room, you will want to keep a certain theme. Whether you are decorating a formal dining room, a casual breakfast room, or a country style family dining room, keep that theme in mind throughout the redecoration process. A mismatch in styles will only make you want to spend more money when you have to redecorate sooner.

LIVING ROOM

In most homes, the living room is the most used space, and therefore it is the space that you will definitely want to spend some time redecorating. Additionally, this is the room that guests will most likely see. You do not want a plain, boring or drab room when you invite friends and family over to visit!

However, you do not have to go over budget in order to redecorate your living room. In fact, there are numerous ways that you can turn your living room into something new and refreshed for very little or no money.

The key to redecorating your living room is to start with a blank slate. Move as much as you can out of the room so you can get a true idea of what you are working with. Then, use the following tips in order to redecorate at a low cost.

1. As with any room, you can completely create a new look just by painting. If you have normally had white or pale walls, consider doing something more dramatic by choosing a brighter or deeper color that is sure to make your living room feel more cozy and more warm and inviting to guests. If you have a small living room, then choose a lighter color that will make the room seem larger. However, you never have to feel like you are limited to white or off-white for your living room walls. Be creative; just do not be overwhelming with an all too bright paint choice.
2. Flooring can be expensive to replace, but old flooring can be an eyesore in a redecorated room. If you are not happy with the look of your current flooring, consider purchasing an area rug that will match the new style of the room. Area rugs will draw the attention away from old or worn flooring.
3. Yard sales, garage sales, flea markets, and second hand stores can be treasure troves for finding living room furniture. If you find furniture that you like the style of but not the fabric of, you can spend a weekend reupholstering it to gain a whole new style just for your taste.
4. For a more unique living room, purchase mismatched second hand furniture that will create a fun and different style that is sure to gain attention in the living room. Remember that all of your furniture does not have to match exactly; it just needs to have a similar feel to seem cohesive.
5. Get creative when you want to decorate the walls. Most of the expense in wall art is in the frames. Consider looking for wall art that is on stretched canvas. These pieces will create a unique 3D style for the walls without costing nearly as much money.
6. If you prefer the formal style of framed wall art, then look for antique or older pieces at thrift stores and flea markets or antique malls. You may be able to find wall art that fits your personality for a low price.
7. Consider adding greenery to your living room. Houseplants can make a living room feel more cozy and a decorative tree can be the perfect item for an unused corner. If your room gets a lot of light, you can choose live houseplants. If your room is not light friendly, then artificial plants can be affordable and just as decorative.
8. When you are considering paint colors for your living room, do not feel limited to just one color. In fact, if you paint most of the walls a neutral tone, you can then choose one accent wall to paint in a bright or rich shade to truly stand out. This is also a great way to display a favored piece of wall art, by placing it central on the accent wall.

9. When it comes to small decorative items, less is more. If you put too many items in one room, you will create a cluttered feel. Instead, shop craft stores, antique malls, flea markets and garage sales for just a few unique pieces for tables and shelves.

10. If you do not want to spend extra on small décor items, shop around throughout your house. You may just find the right items hiding away in other rooms or even stored away in your garage. Once put together in different groupings, you can have a whole new look for your living room.

11. If you do not have money to spare on furniture, you may be surprised how much of a difference you can make simply by rearranging. Get creative one weekend and try moving your furniture into numerous different places. Consider moving it away from the walls to create a more modern feel or place items at angles instead of straight lines.

12. You can make a big difference in your living room just by changing window coverings. Instead of expensive curtains, visit a fabric or craft store and create your own drapery. Whether you choose to make handmade pocket curtains or you prefer to create a swag that will allow plenty of light, you can do this with an inexpensive fabric that matches the style of your room.

13. When it comes to recycling furniture, do not be afraid to think creatively. A new coat of paint can turn an old desk into a side table. Affordable and easy to assemble book shelves can be painted and used for decorative shelving in small or unused corners or walls.

14. Always keep a theme in mind. This will be the room you use the most, so make sure you consider theme. If you and your family like a laid back atmosphere, work to create a comfortable and casual room. If you are more interested in formal entertaining, go for a modern and minimal style. When you keep a theme in mind throughout the redecoration process you can save yourself money in the future since you will be happy with your living room for years to come.

KITCHEN

Do not think of your kitchen as utilitarian. There are numerous ways that you can redecorate your kitchen to keep it fresh and inviting. You will be spending plenty of time in your kitchen, and you want to make sure that it reflects your personality. Redecorating your kitchen will keep the room interesting and will help keep cooking and cleaning from being a chore.

Decorating your kitchen does not have to be expensive. Instead, you can work on a tight budget and still garner a brand new style for the room. There are many different inexpensive ways to give your kitchen a facelift, and many of them are cost free.

Here are some tips on redecorating your kitchen without breaking the bank.

1. As with any other room, start with the wall color. A kitchen should be a bright and happy place, so consider airy colors that will keep the room lively. Warm tones, like a soft yellow or beige create a cheery atmosphere for the kitchen.
2. Of course, the cabinets can be one of the most prominent things that you see when walking into a kitchen. They can also be one of the priciest when it comes to redecorating, but you do not have to break the budget. Instead of replacing cabinets, you can replace just the doors to create a new look at half the cost.
3. For a more open feeling, remove the cabinet doors altogether and consider your dishes, plates, boxed foods and cookware as a display of sorts.
4. If you prefer a more casual look without the cabinet doors, attach Velcro to inexpensive fabrics and then attach on the inside of the cabinet opening to create curtains for each of the cabinet spaces.
5. If you want a brand new look for your wooden cabinets but you cannot afford to reface them, then get to work sanding and painting. Many people do not think of painting cabinets, but this is a great way to restyle the room. Consider darker colors since lighter colors will show wear and tear more since a kitchen is used so frequently.
6. Appliances can be refinished for a low price. This is another thing that many people do not know. Talk with your local appliance store to find out the cost of refinishing old appliances or replacing oven and refrigerator doors for a new look.
7. To replace flooring on a budget, look for do-it-yourself options like stick on floor tiles or vinyl flooring. When installed correctly, these options can look just as classic as a professional installation. Look for floor coloring that will match your style while hiding dirt since your kitchen is most likely a highly trafficked area.
8. To change up lighting, visit antique stores or thrift shops. You may be surprised to find numerous options for lighting, especially if you are looking for something with an antique or an old world feel. If you cannot afford new lighting or to pay an electrician, consider refinishing your current lighting. This can be done with a new shade or light covering. If you have a chandelier, look for paints made to refinish metal.
9. If you need affordable artwork, consider what you like to do most in the kitchen. Take your favorite recipes and frame them in inexpensive yet decorative frames. This way, not only will you have unique and fun wall art, but it will be useful anytime you wish to cook the recipe!

10. When it comes to decorative items for your kitchen, keep in mind that anything you put on the counter will be in the way while you cook. Keep your decorative items at a minimum so that the few you use will stand out without getting in the way.

11. Another way to decorate is to use items with a dual purpose. Fill a bowl with fresh fruit to provide a bright decoration and a healthy snack for your family. Use a decorative flower pot to store cooking utensils in a fun and unique way. Hang coffee mugs from hooks placed underneath cabinets to create a whimsical and useful look.

12. If you have empty wall space and you do not have enough storage, you can find many affordable and decorative ways to add storage space. An old shelving unit can be repainted and can be a great place to store cookbooks, small bake ware, or dry foods. Look for baker's racks or metal shelving at thrift stores or garage sales. These items can be made over with a fresh coat of paint and can serve as useful storage space. An old armoire can be refurbished for the kitchen by removing the doors and replacing them with fabric curtains.

13. If you have a breakfast room or a casual dining room with your kitchen, then refurbish the furniture with a coat of paint. This is a great way to create the look of new furniture without the cost of buying any.

14. If the chairs have fabric seats, then reupholstering can be a great way to get a fresh look. Consider using the same fabrics as you used when you created your kitchen curtains. Alternatively, if you bought the curtains, and then find a matching fabric for the dining chairs.

15. Use items from your kitchen cabinets as decoration. That porcelain tea pitcher will make a lovely centerpiece when filled with artificial or fresh cut flowers. A decorative china plate can add interest to an unused portion of the counter. When it comes to decorating the kitchen, remember to look around for items that you already have and you will not have to spend any money at all.

16. An easy way to update the look of a kitchen in a subtle way is to replace the hardware. Cabinet knobs and door pulls can be found at affordable prices at a local home improvement store. Replace the light switch plates and the outlet covers to match as well. For something truly creative, browse the Internet to find affordable yet decorative switch plates that will bring attention to an otherwise unnoticed part of the room.

17. Countertops can be costly to replace. If you have unsightly countertops, you do have options. Formica or laminate counter tops can be painted. You will just need to make sure to talk to someone at your home improvement store to find primer and paint made for such surfaces. Wooden countertops can be sanded and re-stained to freshen them up.

18. Do you and your family need a reminder board for notes, lists and announcements? You can purchase rolls of cork to create a corkboard on a small side wall in the kitchen. Decorative thumb tacks are available at office supply stores. You can also purchase rolls of blackboard material and chalk to create a fun and modern blackboard wall where notes can be jotted down.

19. Remember to keep a theme in mind. Whether you prefer a country, casual, modern, or elegant kitchen space, if you start with a theme, you will find it all the easier to redecorate without spending too much money.

CONCLUSION

Your home definitely deserves attention since you spend so much of your time here. While you may be thinking that the idea of redecorating your home is more than your budget can handle, you do not have to spend your days in something outdated or drab.

As you can see from the tips included in this guide, there are many ways to redecorate or decorate your home on a tight budget. You can have a home that includes luxurious style and decoration in each room without spending too much money.

Whether you are moving into a brand new home and are working with a blank slate or you just want to redecorate your home for something new, there are plenty of ways you can do so without spending too much money. Just consider your redecoration a room-by-room project and you can have a whole new home in no time!

The most important thing to remember is to always stick with your personal style. Whenever you redecorate, only choose items that you truly like. Otherwise, you could find yourself spending more money redecorating sooner in the future than you intended.