



A to Z of
Decorating
for a
Newbie
DIY
Decorator

Preethi Prabhu

A to Z of Decorating

Who is a DIY Decorator?

If you are constantly searching for ideas to update your home, if you are constantly arranging and re-arranging your space and if you can't wait to try out something you saw on Pinterest, you my friend, are a DIY decorator. And with a little help you can be a very good decorator.

So here is **A to Z of Decorating for a Newbie DIY Decorator**.

Art - Art is my most favourite decor accessory. If I had to define art for you, I would say "anything that looks beautiful to your eyes and talks to you is art". Really!! What Picasso, Da Vinci and Hussain made was art, your child's careless scribbles is art, the slow distress of something left at the mercy of the elements is art and sometimes, even a blank canvas with a dot on it, is art. **Art** is anything that makes you happy, reaches out to your soul.

By adding some art in your space, you can create a different world within your home. Ask me, I live in a home and work in a studio that is an art explosion.

Books - Books are one of the cheapest home decor styling products known to mankind. Everyone has them I assume, if you don't, just update your Facebook status to "*Anybody's got any books to giveaway for free?*" And you will have a truck load. If the covers aren't pretty, consider wrapping them in pretty gift wrapping paper just like you wrapped your text books back in the school days. Books can also be used to add different levels in a vignette which looks much better than having everything in one level.

Candles - Is there anyone in this world who doesn't love **candles**? Apart from being one of the safest gifts to give to others, candles are instant mood lifters when lit. Doesn't matter if it is day or night, it's just pure pleasure for your senses.

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If you are a DIY enthusiast, I am sure you would have saved the last bits of melted wax from your burnt candles. Put them in a double boiler, grate your favourite color wax crayon in it, put a few drops of essential oil and pour it into tea cups or jars and make your own exotic candles. I particularly like to group 5 to 7 candles together, I think they look great both when they are lit and when not.

DIY – Learn the art of **Doing It Yourself**. DIY is not always about saving money. It's about learning to use your hands and making something beautiful. Once you get the hang of it, it's like an addiction. You will look at everything with an eye of a DIY'er. Also learning to DIY means, you are less frustrated with not being able to find the right person to do the job. Unless it's a highly skilled electrical, plumbing or masonry work, you can do it yourself. So you are your best handy man or handy woman.

Edible Décor – How to identify a crazy décor enthusiast? Every time you visit them, if things are different around the home, there you have it, your crazy décor enthusiast. Now it's difficult to keep up with our crazy when it comes to styling and we run out of beautiful things to decorate with, but one thing that we can never run out of, is food. Fruits and vegetables make such beautiful centre pieces that you will be surprised. Now that you know, go ahead, get creative!

Flowers: Flowers make great additions to the décor of the room. It also provides that natural element if you cannot keep plants inside the house. Typically store bought flowers survive for a week to 10 days depending on the type. Remember to change the water often and trim the ends at an angle. Ferns that are used as fillers in flower bouquets also look lovely in pretty vases. Some of them even last longer than the flowers.

Glass - This can be any glass. Expensive store bought glass vase or a line of juice bottles with a single bud in them. Glass is a very versatile décor element and also multifunctional. Serve curry during a party or float flowers when not serving food. Get everything in your home to multifunction.

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Hygge: Pronounced as “Hue-Guh”, it’s a Danish word that means coziness, simple pleasures of life or living in the moment. It’s a hard to define word, and easy to feel. Candles and fragrance and hugs and cuddles, everything that spells cozy brings hygge into your space. Things that turn a house to a home and creates the positive vibe.

Indoor Plants: Much has been said about the advantages of keeping **plants** inside the house, but its worth repeating. Certain common house plants like Areca Palm, money plant and snake plant are known to purify air and improve the air quality indoors. Its only a bonus that they also **look good**. And all three plants mentioned here are pretty much low maintenance.

Jam Bottles: They are the mason jars of India. Until recently, mason jars were not available locally in India. But our good old jam bottles can give them a run for their money. They can be painted, decoupage, used as vases, **t-light holders**, and what not. If you can imagine it, you can make it.

Kolors: Ok I cheated!, But the sounds are the same, so its allowed i guess. Colours! Don’t be afraid of colours. A black and white life would be super boring. A lot of people do browns and beige, but how boring is that. If bold is not your type, do pastels. If painting an entire wall scares you, do artwork or accessories. Introducing some color can liven up a space.

Lamps: **Lamps** can provide a dramatic effect during the day or night. Identify those dark corners where you don’t get much light and have table lamps with cool white bulbs in them. I love having a combination of cool and warm lights during the night, they provide the right amount of cozy, without making it look too bright like daylight or too warm like a night club.

Mural: Murals are paintings that are done on the wall directly. These are more permanent, so take your time with it. If you are like me who thinks “what could go wrong? If I hate it, I will just paint it back to the wall color” then **CALL ME!** We could be best friends!

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If you are cautious kind, then use re-usable wall decals, first to see how you feel about wall art. If its not your thing then just peel them off and the wall won't tell any stories.

Natural textures: This is also the current hot trend around the globe. Use a lot of bamboo, cane, jute and rattan. Paired with an absolute white background and ample natural light, this can look super stunning. Also, this look can be achieved on a budget too.

Organizing: As organized mess (**controlled clutter**) looks and feels much better than an un-organised one. Sometimes when I feel that the clutter around is overwhelming, I stuff everything in the closet behind closed doors. That way there is an instant relief and I can think clearly what I want to do next. Also, grouping decorative items together, and leaving more empty space around give a spacious feel than when you have everything spread out.

Paint: Paint is the quickest, easiest and **cheapest way** to give something a makeover (If you do it yourself: of course you are a **DIY decorator**, who am I kidding). From the walls to some tiny decorative, one lick of paint can freshen it up and give it a whole new look. **Spray paints** can make any cheap plastic decorative, look like a million bucks. Do something with all those gifts that you have been hoarding in the closet unable to display or giveaway.

Quality of Living: There is none or very less research done on the décor subject. How one feels when living in a decorated space verses the other. Being a person who is a decorating fanatic who not only decorates for herself, but also for others, I can tell you this much. Living in a space that is well thought out and decorated, can make you feel very good. I am sure other decorators, or even decor enthusiasts for that matter feel the same too. Making your home an oasis, adds to your **happiness quotient** and improves the quality of life.

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Rugs: Rugs can be used to define a space if you have an open style living. They also provide the instant pop of colour if you are living in a rental where you cannot put any colours on the wall.

Symmetry: I say “When in doubt, do symmetry”. While styling a side board or choosing a layout, if you are not the experimenting kind and want to be safe, go for symmetry. Ensure one side mimics the other and you can never go wrong.

Typo: Typography is a huge trend that never goes obsolete. You can have them on your walls, table linen, plates and sometimes even on your sheets. They also make the quick and easy art work too. Like a quote? Go to word, try all fancy font, print the one you love and frame. Tadaa... instant art!

Upcycled: Don't throw away things that come as packaging or are broken. Upcycle them into usable things. Large juice tetra packs can become planters and you can use them inside your pretty pots. Upcycling is a huge community in itself, the possibilities are endless.

Vintage: Go dig in your grandmother's attic and find those old things that are waiting to be salvaged. **Vintage chic** is the way to go if you like old things. Also they have so much character and stories to tell, compared to new shiny store bought things.

Window dressing: Window dressing contributes to a large portion of how your home looks. If you have curious neighbours, but you love the natural light, opt for two layered curtains. Translucent for the day, opaque solid for the night. Curtains and blinds also provide the much needed color and can change with seasons, so invest in sets.

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Express: Your home is a place where you can be uninhibited and express yourself freely. So don't hesitate to be **YOU!** It should be an extension of your personality, who you are, what you do and what you love. Your home should tell the stories of your life. So with this new found Zeal, get your decorating game in place and conquer it!

Thank you!

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