



Make Your Home Cozy Challenge

Every home we've ever had has been described as cozy by our guests. This includes two apartments, a 1928 Craftsman in the city, and our current 1996 traditional home on a cul-de-sac. When we sold our Craftsman, the buyer said that she felt like the home hugged her when she walked in.

We've never had a lot of money for decorating so when I do buy something I am very particular about what I purchase. It has to be something that will last, not go quickly out of style, and will allow me to use it many different ways.

I think there are a number of things I've done that make our home cozy. There are three things I've consistently done that anyone can do. By that I mean I can tell you that a fireplace is incredibly cozy, but not everyone can have a fireplace today. But the three suggestions I'm going to make here should be achievable by anyone today.

Lighting

Any room can be completely transformed by lighting. This can be accomplished by a few simple choices. One, use lamps. Two, use incandescent bulbs. Three, use candles (real or battery operated).

Lamps make a room cozy more than any kind of ceiling light can. It is still possible to find incandescent bulbs and it is all I will use. The light given off by the newer lightbulbs makes me ill and there is no warmth to them. Candles always add warmth and coziness to a room. If you have small children, there are lots of pillar candles that are battery operated and look amazingly real.

Lighting will change your home almost instantly.



Create a Gathering Space

A room that is centered on a television is never going to feel cozy in the same way a room that is focused on conversation will. Instead of pointing all the furniture at the television, try to rearrange it to create a gathering space where people will converse.

If your room is large enough, pull the couch away from the wall and create a gathering area with the couch, a table, and a chair or two. Bring people together when they sit down. Simply moving furniture in and gathering it together instead of lining it up along the walls will completely transform a room.

Cozy Touches

I'm not a fan of minimalism because it feels empty and sad to me. I would much rather be surrounded by carefully chosen items that bring warmth and cozy to my home. I truly think cozy requires “stuff” to be out and about in the room. Clean surfaces and minimal belongings will never feel cozy.

Cozy things to put in your room that you probably already own include books, throws, pillows, photos, lamps, and other treasures that matter to your family. If you don't have anything cozy at all, there are usually lots of picture frames, glass bowls, etc. available at places like Goodwill. You could paint the picture frames to make them harmonize in your room. Add a personal photo or print off a pretty quote or Scripture to frame. Put pine cones in a bowl. Cozy does not have to be expensive at all!



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Circle the words you want to describe your home

- | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------|----------|
| country | elegant | empty | color | books |
| flow | sentimental | gathering | relax | open |
| handmade | comfortable | antiques | whimsy | sleek |
| vibrant | calming | wood | light | trendy |
| rustic | warmth | conversation | clean | classic |
| spacious | layered | artwork | pretty | timeless |
| peaceful | purpose | texture | dark | romantic |
| contemporary | reflective | rest | cozy | happy |
| feminine | collections | photographs | frilly | comfy |

When people leave your home, what would you want them to say?

Her home is so _____

I felt so _____

_____ while I was there.

I loved how she _____

Choose one room (such as your living room) and jot down three changes you can make today.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____