

Grand Living Newsletter

[| Locations](#) | [Website](#) | [Furniture & Accessories](#) | [History](#) |
[| Current Sales & Special Offers](#) | [Furniture Care](#) |

Accent-uate the Positive

Contents

[Accent-uate the Positive](#)

[Ask The Expert](#)

[Cold Outside - Warm and Cozy
Inside](#)

[Smart Interiors](#)

[Home Advisor](#)

Ask The Expert

Q - I've purchased some nice pieces of furniture from your store recently to complete my home décor. The area where I feel my decorating is the weakest is in lighting. Can you give me some pointers or tips to get the most out of my lighting?

A - Ask any interior designer about the most important aspect of any home decorating project and odds are the answer will be, "Lighting." The illumination of any home space dramatically influences the feeling people get the second they cross the threshold. With the flip of a switch, you can create an ambience that's warm and inviting, cozy and comfortable or cold and harsh. Lighting is one of those elements that you notice most when it's not right. Of course, lamps and fixtures

It's a new year, a new month and a new day—time to say, "Out with the old, in with the new accent furniture," all over the house.

Start by taking stock of your existing furniture, room by room. The primary functional pieces in your bedrooms and family spaces may be fine, but what about the auxiliary furnishings?

Are the nightstands' surfaces and storage large enough to hold your books, glasses, remotes, lamps and other paraphernalia? Is the bedroom chair piled with clothes? Maybe there's room for a small console or Bombe chest, or even a stylish bookcase for narrower spots, to provide additional sweater drawers, freeing up that chair for actual sitting. If it's the guest room or kids' quarters, how about a chair-and-a-half with an ottoman that converts to a single bed?



Benches are also hot commodities in home décor right now, at the foot of the bed or just inside the back entryway to catch backpacks and shopping bags. Or why not consider a blanket chest? Once called "hope chests," these great storage pieces are often cedar-lined to protect fine woolens and also make for sturdy seating anywhere in your home.

They also make excellent coffee or side tables in the living room or den, with extra storage built right in.

Upholstered ottomans can also provide terrific seating service at bed's end. There may be nothing quite as cushy as sinking onto a buttery leather ottoman to take your shoes off after a



enhance the décor of our rooms, but they also serve utilitarian purposes. As you decorate, it is important to consider the practical aspect of the lighting in each room.

Generally speaking, it's better to have several lights in a room rather than one or just a few. You will want general lighting that allows you to see as you move in a room and task lights that illuminate specific areas of the home. With several lamps, overhead fixtures and wall sconces, you have more flexibility in how you light your room at any particular moment, and the look can be more pleasant. Table lamps with opaque shades, for instance, may not cast a wide light, but their glow can enhance a room's mood. If you have an interesting ceiling, use a torchiere or another light source that throws light up toward the ceiling. When choosing how to position your lights, go ahead and experiment with plug-in lamps that you can move around the room.

There was a time when lighting didn't have the decorating value that it has today. The choices were few and the styles were limited. Now, however, you can find a floor lamp, table lamp, chandelier, pendant or sconce to fit and enhance any style, no matter what room or decor you choose. Lighting experts tell us that there are several new looks for today's interior lighting. Softer metallic finishes, like brushed nickel, stainless steel, pewter, and even brushed copper are doing their best to dethrone brass as the top finish choice. Multi-toned colored finishes, a trend that has grown out of the merging of style with technology, offer us lamps and fixtures with more depth and texture than ever before. Textured white finishes are also widely popular now.

Weathered finishes and patinas offer a unique, timeless look, a

hard day's work.

Are your sofas covered with newspapers and magazines, or have Rover and Kitty taken them over? Sounds like it's time for accent chairs to add extra seating to the mix. Upholstered swivel chairs are lots of fun for the family room or den: They're great for video-gaming or just hanging out with friends. Have you always yearned for a fireplace? Then now may be



the time to consider an accent fireplace mantle with an electric heater insert that really brings in that cozy-cabin warmth.

Pedestals, pedestal tables and plant stands can offer terrific focal points for collections or prized artwork, as can curio cabinets, which come with all sorts of features these days. Whether you choose a corner cabinet or a wall unit, curios take up far less space than traditional china cabinets and usually conform better with décor outside the dining room. Available in a variety of finishes, curio cabinets can offer mirrored backs, adjustable shelves and interior lighting for optimum display, and locks that guard visible valuables.

Tea carts and trolleys also can be formal or casual display pieces, wheeling from kitchen to living room to formal dining room easily. Butler's tray stands make great impromptu self-service bars, switching easily to function as accent tables or consoles when the entertaining is done.

Our Grand Home Furnishings associates would love to have the opportunity to go through your floor plan with you, room by room. They'll be thrilled to help you choose what to move around and what to leave alone, what stays and what goes, giving you a whole new perspective on furniture function and style.

[Top](#)

Cold Outside – Warm and Cozy Inside with a New Mattress

Whether you're considering a king-sized or queen-sized bed set for you and your partner—or perhaps twin comfort for the little prince or princess in your life—Grand Home Furnishings carries all the mattress models you could want, manufactured by the most well respected bed makers in the business, Sealy, Simmons, Tempur-pedic, Serta and others. From traditional updated innerspring to visco-elastic “memory” foam technology to latex foam rubber, you're certain to find a good night's sleep.

When it comes to toppers, Grand Home Furnishings has the tops. While some sleepers still prefer that tried-and-true firm feel directly beneath them, others fall in love with the softness of the newer pillow tops. These thinner layers of softer material are sewn directly into the mattress top. They're filled with plush foam, “Euro” down, natural and/or manmade fiber, or combinations of these cushy comfort providers.

The newest mattress technology hasn't



trend that is gaining fast on the more traditional antique brass. These distressed finishes allow any designer to combine contemporary lighting with traditional furnishings without having to resort to more formal lighting. Lastly, nearly every aspect of today's lamps, from the base to the pull chain, has earned more decorative detail, giving fixtures greater sophistication.

The best rule of thumb? Choose lighting elements that would be interesting and attractive without functioning as lamps. That way, your fixtures light the room and accessorize it as well, doing double duty to make your decorating efforts really shine.

The following general tips will aid you in your lighting selections:

- 1) Wall-mounted and ceiling fixtures, including chandeliers, are best for general lighting.
- 2) Dimmers can add drama to any room featuring a chandelier. Don't be restricted to using this fixture in the dining room.
- 3) Hanging fixtures, such as those used in a foyer, will offer broad-spectrum lighting that will create a comfortable level of illumination while also making an attractive statement.
- 4) Portable lamps will create general, task, and accent lighting, with the added bonus of mobility. Table lamps, floor lamps, and torchieres come in all shapes and sizes to complement any style decor.
- 5) Recessed lighting hides away in your ceiling while offering general, task, and accent lighting. This is a good choice for highlighting artwork in corners and alcoves.
- 6) Track lighting is flexible enough to offer each form of lighting and has become a very stylish choice.

changed the fact, however, that for all their modern differences bed sets still look identical to one another. The only way to tell them apart, and to find out what you and your sleep partner find most comfortable, is to put several mattress sets to the test. Our Grand Home Furnishings sleep experts invite you to come by and try them out in person. Wear comfortable clothes, take off your shoes and lie down on bed sets that run the gamut of firmness, pillow-top combos and price range. Really stretch out the way you would when you sleep, lying on both sides, your stomach and your back accordingly. Bounce up and down a few times—the mattress shopping equivalent of kicking the tires!

When you've found your perfect mattress match, Grand Home Furnishings provides free delivery up to 100 miles from our stores on purchases \$598 or more, and we'll take away and properly dispose of your old mattress as well. Stop in this week and get yourself the best night's sleep!

[Top](#)

Win a Trip to the American Idol Finale from Grand Home Furnishings and Your Local FOX Television Station

Win a Trip to the American Idol Finale May 21, 2008. 3 Lucky Winners and each may take a guest!

Exclusively from Grand Home Furnishings and Your Local FOX Television Station. Enter only at Grand Home Furnishings Stores. Airfare, three night's accommodations for three couples, ground transportation, dinner one night and \$500 spending money per couple provided. [For details click here.](#)

[Top](#)

Grand Home Furnishings is Giving Away Race Tickets

Win Tickets to the Sold-Out Food City 500 Sprint Cup Race at Bristol Motor Speedway Sunday, March 16th.

6 Pairs of tickets to be given away. No purchase necessary. You must be 18 years or older to enter. You do not need to be present to win. Register by March 2, 2008. See store for further details.

[Top](#)

Finished? How Do You Know?

So you have the shell of your latest room decorating project just the way you want it, but it doesn't feel perfect yet. Here are a few tips to make you feel finished, at least for now. We'll give you a few more thoughts next month on making your décor feel like a done deal.



7) Interior designers use a convenient formula to determine how much lighting a room needs, calculating roughly two watts per square foot. Using this handy measure, then, a 12' by 12' room needs approximately 300 watts, or four lamps with 75-watt bulbs. Remember that three lamps create a lovely triangle of light in any space.

With a little thought, planning and careful shopping your lighting can make an immediate fashion impact on the living spaces of your home.

* Let in some interesting light. In place of the usual boring overhead lighting or basic table lamps, shoot for the dramatic with spotlights, uplights, ceiling track lighting, sconces and decorative lamps. Focus lighting on works of art, light up a dark corner on a bookshelf, and add dimmers to wall switches.

* It's alive! A potted plant in a decorative planter, set on a coffee table, bookshelf, on top of a cabinet, almost anywhere, adds life and color instantly. Consider nurturing two plants for each location—one for display, one soaking up rays in a more plant-friendly spot—and swap them out frequently. Don't have the time or the proper conditions to tend plants? Consider an indoor nursery service or invest in some good-quality artificials, and be sure to keep all plants, alive or look-alike, shiny and dusted.

* Nothing says "unfinished" like bare walls. Your new décor will only feel complete when paintings, posters, mirrors, wall hangings and/or collections of prints or family photos are in place. As you work with wall art, try to focus on a color scheme or theme. Unify pieces with common mat colors, similarly colored frames, sizes and shapes, or mix it up to add interest. One large piece can create a focal point in a room while a display of collected pieces draws the eye in for a closer look.

* Most interior designers feel that home decorating should always be a work in progress. Whether it takes a week, a month, or a whole lifetime, finding just the right finishing touches for a room is really the fun part of decorating. Think of it as accessorizing, much like adding new jewelry to your favorite outfit once in a while. Then your rooms will reflect your growing personality—who you are, how your interests are changing and where you've been.

[Top](#)

Getting to the Root

Who doesn't love a heart-and-soul-warming soup on a chilly March day? This one uses winter root vegetables, still available locally from growers in most areas, and roasting them first adds a flavorful richness you won't believe until you've tried it. Feel free to make vegetable substitutions: For example, use sweet potatoes instead of white ones, or beets instead of parsnips, according to what's fresh from your neighborhood produce stands, keeping the overall volume approximately the same. Serve it from a preheated tureen in the middle of the kitchen table and let the family pile on the healthy garnishes to their heart's content!



Preheat the oven to 275 degrees. Whisk together 3 tablespoons olive oil and 1 tablespoon hoisin sauce (available in the Asian foods section of most grocery stores) and set aside. Wash but don't peel 2 medium-sized potatoes, 2 large carrots, 1 large parsnip and 1 large butternut squash, and cut them into smallish chunks. Spread the chunks out on a baking sheet, drizzle the oil/hoisin mixture over them and roast uncovered in the oven for 45 minutes to 1 hour until fork-tender. While the vegetables are roasting, chop 2 medium onions and 2-3 stalks of celery and add them to a large pot with 2 cups vegetable, chicken or meat stock, 4 cups water, 2 bay leaves, 1/4 teaspoon thyme and 1/4 teaspoon marjoram. Bring to a boil and simmer slowly until root vegetables are ready. Allow the vegetables to cool a little, then puree in a food processor or blender in batches, adding in the prepared broth as needed, until smooth. Strain and reserve the remaining broth to adjust thickness later. Return the puree to the pot, stirring in 1 tablespoon soy sauce or 1 teaspoon salt, and ground black pepper to taste, and heat through. Stir in 1 cup of

nonfat yogurt, taking care to not let the soup boil again. If necessary, adjust the thickness with the reserved broth. Garnish with dollops of yogurt and a sprinkling of chopped chives, and enjoy!

[Top](#)

Unsubscribe

To cancel your subscription to this newsletter, please reply to this message with the word UNSUBSCRIBE in the Subject line.

Brought to you by:

Grand Home Furnishings
4235 Electric Road, SW, Suite 100
Roanoke, VA 24018

*This newsletter is sent monthly to Grand Home Furnishings customers.
Grand does not share your email address with anyone at any time.*

This message was sent from Grand Home Furnishings to PSNYDER@GRANDHOMEFURNISHINGS.COM. It was sent from: Grand Home Furnishings, 4235 Electric Rd Suite 100, Roanoke, VA 24018-8445. You can modify/update your subscription via the link below.



[Comment on this message](#)

[Manage your subscription](#)

[Receive our messages as an RSS feed](#)