



GUIDE TO REFRESHING YOUR HOME DECOR BEFORE ENTERTAINING GUESTS



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Abstract

Refreshing your home decor before entertaining guests can make your space feel welcoming and comfortable. This guide provides practical tips and ideas to help you update your home quickly and effectively. It starts with decluttering and reorganizing key areas such as the living room, kitchen, and dining space. Removing unnecessary items and arranging furniture thoughtfully can make your home appear more spacious and inviting.

Next, the guide focuses on incorporating seasonal or trendy decor elements. Small changes such as new cushions, throws, or decorative accents can bring fresh energy to your rooms without a complete renovation. Lighting and ambiance are also important. Proper lighting can create a warm and cozy environment for your guests, while scented candles or diffusers add a pleasant touch.



Cleaning is another essential step. Ensuring that all areas are neat and spotless makes a great impression and enhances the overall experience for visitors. Finally, adding thoughtful touches like fresh flowers, table settings, or personalized decorations shows care and attention to detail.

This guide is designed to be easy to follow for anyone who wants to refresh their home before hosting. By combining simple updates, effective cleaning, and creative accents, you can create a welcoming atmosphere that impresses your guests effortlessly.

Getting Started

Getting started with refreshing your home decor before entertaining guests is all about planning and prioritizing. The first step is to assess your space and identify the areas that need the most attention. Focus on key spaces where your guests will spend the most time, such as the living room, dining area, and kitchen. Take note of clutter, outdated decorations, or worn-out items that may distract from a welcoming atmosphere.



Next, set a realistic plan for what you want to achieve. Decide whether you want a simple refresh or a more noticeable change. Start with easy improvements like rearranging furniture to create a better flow, adding fresh textiles, or placing decorative accents in focal points. Consider the mood you want to create for your guests, whether it is cozy, elegant, or lively, and choose colors, textures, and lighting to match that vision.

Cleaning is also a key part of getting started. A tidy, organized space provides a strong foundation for any decor updates. By combining organization, strategic planning, and small decorative touches, you can make meaningful changes without feeling overwhelmed. Taking these initial steps ensures that the process is smooth and enjoyable, setting the stage for a home that looks inviting and stylish for your guests.

1. Declutter and Reorganize Living Areas, Kitchen, and Entryways

Decluttering and reorganizing your home is the first step to creating a welcoming space for guests. Start by looking at your living areas, kitchen, and entryways, as these are the spaces that make the strongest first impression. Remove items that are not needed or do not add value to the room. This includes excess decorations, unused furniture, or scattered personal belongings. A clean and open space instantly feels more inviting and comfortable.



Reorganizing your furniture and belongings can also make your home more functional and visually appealing. Arrange seating to encourage conversation, clear countertops in the kitchen, and keep entryways tidy for a smooth arrival experience. Simple storage solutions, like baskets or shelves, can help keep items organized while maintaining a stylish look. By decluttering and reorganizing these key areas, you create a fresh, airy, and welcoming environment that sets the perfect tone for entertaining guests.

In light of the hype around minimalism, the recognized positive effects of a decluttered home and lifestyle, and the frenzy surrounding organizing expert Marie Kondo, homes with edited interiors that are properly organized and feature a "clean" aesthetic are, frankly, what's fashionable. This all makes the arrival of spring 2019 the perfect moment to dedicate significant time to the process of spring cleaning, and to do it right. That means purging, editing, organizing, and streamlining your in-home storage solutions to achieve a decluttered lifestyle

that will last you through the warmer months. Read on for some fresh inspiration from Dering Hall designers, as well as shoppable storage solutions, to bring to your home this spring when you throw open the windows, and begin cleaning away the winter mess.

Living Areas Cleaning

Cleaning the living areas is an essential part of preparing your home for guests. After decluttering, focus on dusting all surfaces, including shelves, tables, and decorative items. Wipe down electronics, picture frames, and light fixtures to remove dust and fingerprints. Vacuum or sweep floors thoroughly, paying special attention to corners and under furniture where dirt often collects.

Soft furnishings like sofas, cushions, and rugs should be cleaned or fluffed to give a fresh and inviting look. Curtains and blinds can also be dusted or washed if needed. Don't forget small details such as cleaning coffee tables, arranging magazines neatly, and ensuring remote controls and other commonly used items are organized.

A clean living area creates a welcoming and comfortable atmosphere, making your guests feel at ease. Taking time to clean carefully ensures that your efforts in decluttering and reorganizing shine through, giving your home a polished and refreshed appearance.



KITCHEN

"We consider storage and organization on every single job," says interior designer Sarah Blank of Sarah Blank Design Studio. "How do you design a kitchen successfully if you don't? It can't just be a pretty room — it has to function, and the way it functions depends on each client. I cannot tell you how many times a client comes to me and says that their last kitchen was not designed by a kitchen professional and the wall cabinets are not deep enough for the dishes."

Blank and her team considered intricate and abundant custom storage solutions for this contemporary kitchen. Besides storage design, she offers some tips for spring cleaning that can be applied to any home in need of de-cluttering for spring. "For a kitchen, spices only last a year so the older ones should be tossed."



"The kitchen is establishing itself as the special place a perfect blend of the workroom and the place to be, the place to entertain, the place to dine. And a well-designed kitchen should have everything where you want it, stored in an accessible place, well organized, and with clutter-free surfaces. This is important in all design cases, but especially when fashioning a kitchen for a smaller house or apartment, condo or loft," says Kasproicz.

"A wine rack adjoins the upper cabinets adding convenience and style, while the open shelves below, hold additional accessories used for entertaining. The homeowner enjoys interchanging items on these shelves to keep the space interesting," says Kasproicz. "I love designing kitchens that offer a solution for clutter-free countertops but some kitchen accessories are

essential and can be functional and attractive." If you don't have a designated home bar, the kitchen is a great place to integrate wine storage. See below for some alternatives to built-in racks.

Entryways

Entryways are the first part of your home that guests see, so keeping them clean and organized is important. Start by removing clutter such as shoes, bags, or unnecessary items that may make the space feel crowded. Ensure there is a clear path for easy access and movement.

Wipe down surfaces like console tables, shelves, and door frames to remove dust and fingerprints. Sweep or vacuum the floor, and consider adding a small rug to create a welcoming touch. Hooks or baskets can help keep essentials like keys and mail tidy.



Adding small decorative accents such as a vase of fresh flowers or a simple mirror can make the entryway feel inviting. A clean and organized entryway sets a positive first impression and prepares guests for a comfortable visit.

Decluttering and reorganizing your living areas, kitchen, and entryways is a simple yet powerful way to refresh your home before entertaining guests. By removing unnecessary items, arranging furniture thoughtfully, and keeping surfaces clean, you create a space that feels open, organized, and inviting. Attention to detail, from polished floors to neatly arranged décor, ensures that each area makes a positive impression.

In the kitchen, a tidy countertop and organized storage not only improve functionality but also enhance the overall aesthetic. Entryways that are clear and welcoming set the tone for the entire visit. Taking the time to clean, declutter, and reorganize these key areas reduces stress and helps you feel confident that your home is guest-ready. Ultimately, these steps make entertaining easier and more enjoyable for both you and your visitors.

2. Add Seasonal or Trendy Decorative Accents

Adding seasonal or trendy decorative accents is an easy way to refresh your home and make it feel lively and inviting for guests. Small updates can create a noticeable impact without requiring major changes or renovations. Seasonal accents allow you to bring the colors, textures, and moods of the current season into your home, such as light throws and pastel cushions in spring or warm-toned decor in autumn.



Trendy decorations, on the other hand, help your space feel modern and stylish. This can include statement cushions, vases, artwork, or small furniture pieces that match current design trends. Incorporating these accents throughout your living areas, kitchen, and entryways can create a cohesive look that feels thoughtful and appealing.

By combining seasonal and trendy elements, you can update your home in a fun and creative way. These small touches not only brighten your space but also make guests feel welcomed and impressed with your attention to detail.

Getting your home decor right can seem like a challenging task – especially when it seems like the trends are always changing! Here, interior architect Shannon Vos shares his top home decoration tips to help you style your home like the pros.

Interior design is the art of understanding human behaviour to create spaces within a building, inside and out. Interior decoration, though, is the adornment of a space with life and beauty.

do your research

Find your style, your niche, your look. Easier said than done, right? Look around you, pore over magazines, save Pins, start boards, 'like' posts and you will start to see patterns in what you're saving.



Create a vision board of all the beautiful images and things you like, and you'll find certain styles and looks coming through.

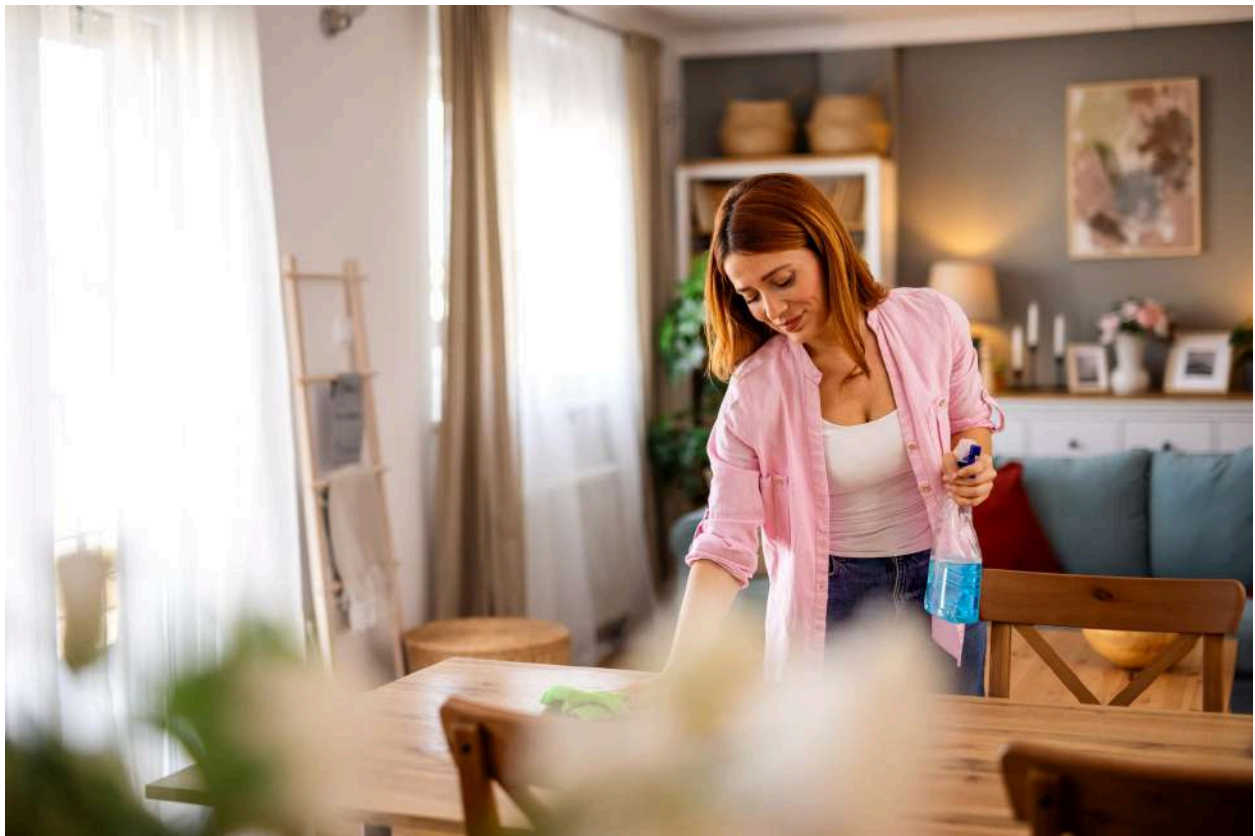
A step further is to use the home you're living in as a basis for a style. A chalet in the mountains, for instance, would look silly styled all coastal and beach-like. Use what you love and the home you have (as well as where you live) to build the palette of style, colour and life you wish for.

This can take anything from a week to years, so allow plenty of time to refine your taste, and if you find yourself butting heads with your partner, husband, wife or bestie (I hate to use the word compromise), find that happy medium.

Don't feel constrained by movements or particular styles; just gather what you love (the colours, the textures, the art) and make it yours. Own your style and you'll build a confident personal space that feels like home and is that enclave of peace we all dream of.

Spring:

- Use light, pastel tones to brighten your space.
- Add fresh flowers in vases for a natural touch.
- Incorporate airy fabrics like linen or cotton in cushions and throws.



Summer:

- Bring in vibrant colors and tropical prints.
- Use natural materials like wicker or rattan for furniture or decor.

- Add small potted plants and bright table settings for a lively feel.

Autumn:

- Focus on warm, earthy tones like oranges, browns, and deep reds.
- Include cozy textures with cushions and throws.
- Decorate with seasonal items like pumpkins, candles, or rustic accents.

Winter:

- Use rich, deep colors to create a cozy atmosphere.
- Add soft lighting with candles or fairy lights.
- Include layered textures like velvet cushions, plush throws, and subtle festive decorations.



Tip: Updating decor according to the seasons keeps your home stylish, welcoming, and fresh for guests all year round.

Adding seasonal or trendy decorative accents is a simple yet effective way to refresh your home and create a welcoming atmosphere for guests. Small changes, such as introducing seasonal colors, textures, and decor items, can make a noticeable difference without requiring a complete home makeover. By selecting accents that match the time of year, you bring life and energy into your living areas, kitchen, and entryways.



Seasonal decor allows you to reflect the mood of each period, from the light pastels and fresh flowers of spring to the vibrant, tropical touches of summer. In autumn, warm tones, cozy textiles, and rustic accents create a comfortable and inviting feel, while winter calls for rich colors, plush throws, soft lighting, and subtle festive decorations. These updates enhance your home's aesthetic and help guests feel instantly welcomed.

Trendy accents can be incorporated alongside seasonal changes to keep your home stylish and modern. Even small items like cushions, throws, table decorations, or vases make a significant impact. By thoughtfully choosing and placing these accents, you can create a refreshed, cohesive, and inviting home that leaves a lasting impression on your guests.

3. Adjust Lighting to Create a Warm and Inviting Atmosphere

Lighting plays a crucial role in setting the mood and overall feel of your home, especially when entertaining guests. The right lighting can make a space feel cozy, welcoming, and visually appealing, while poor lighting can make even a well-decorated room feel dull or uninviting.

Adjusting your lighting strategically is an easy way to refresh your home and create a warm atmosphere without major renovations.

Start by assessing the natural and artificial light in each key area of your home. Maximize natural light during the day by opening curtains or blinds and keeping windows clean. In the evening, layer different types of lighting to create depth and ambiance. Overhead lights provide general illumination, while table lamps, floor lamps, and wall sconces add warmth and softness.

Consider using dimmers or warm-toned bulbs to create a comfortable glow that encourages relaxation and conversation. Accent lighting, such as under-cabinet lights in the kitchen or spotlights on artwork, can highlight focal points and add visual interest. Thoughtful lighting adjustments ensure that your home feels inviting, stylish, and ready for entertaining guests at any time of day.



In Summer

During summer, lighting can play a big role in keeping your home bright, fresh, and welcoming for guests. Natural light is abundant in this season, so take advantage by opening curtains and blinds during the day to fill your living areas and entryways with sunlight. Clean windows and light-colored sheer curtains can help maximize the effect.

In the evenings, use warm yet soft lighting to maintain a relaxed and cozy atmosphere without making the space feel heavy or dark. Table lamps, floor lamps, and string lights can create a

cheerful, inviting glow in living rooms, dining areas, and patios. Consider using bulbs with a slightly warm or neutral tone to complement summer's natural brightness.

Accent lighting, such as highlighting indoor plants or decorative pieces, adds a lively touch and enhances the summer vibe. Thoughtful lighting adjustments ensure your home feels airy, welcoming, and perfect for entertaining during warmer months.

In Winter

Lighting is one of the most essential yet often overlooked elements of home design. The right lighting can dramatically impact how a home looks and feels. Thinking of updating your home's lighting scheme? There isn't a better time to do it than winter, because there is less natural light available. Plus, with the holidays and colder weather, you're likely spending more time indoors. Here's how to update your home's lighting for the winter so you can have your brightest season yet.



Whether it's you on your best day or a delicious holiday dinner, nothing looks appealing under fluorescent lighting. "It can cast a cold, clinical light that feels stark and uninviting," explains Nathan Orsman, architectural lighting designer. Instead, he suggests opting for vintage-style filament bulbs or smart systems, which he says "allows for customization, ensuring your home remains a cozy retreat throughout the winter."

Not sure if your bulbs are fluorescent? The most common type found in homes, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs), typically have a spiral shape. Keep in mind that because they contain mercury, CFLs must be disposed of properly or taken to a recycling center—they can't just be tossed in the trash. Yet another reason to avoid them.

Keep in mind that changing up your lighting doesn't necessarily require installing new fixtures, which might not be an option if you rent. "Table and floor lamps add warm light without turning on the big lights," Zborowski says.



Think layering here. "To achieve a warm, soft glow, consider layering your lighting with a combination of table lamps, wall sconces, and floor lamps," Orsman says. "If you're going for something super moody, consider layering portable lamps and LED candles for extra drama. This approach reduces harsh shadows, which can soften the light and create more of a story in your space."

Exterior lighting is easy to overlook, but it can make a big difference. After all, fumbling for your keys on dark nights can be frustrating, so updating your exterior lights can be a game changer. "Adding a splash of light outside can mitigate the absence of daylight and create a welcoming atmosphere that extends indoors," says Orsman. "Thoughtfully placed outdoor lighting not only enhances your home's curb appeal but invites a sense of warmth and comfort as it spills into your living spaces."

Whether it's smart lighting along your pathway or new sconces by the front door, a bit of extra lighting can have a major impact. A well-lit exterior is also safer, helping to prevent package theft and potential home invasions.

Proper lighting is essential for creating a warm and inviting atmosphere in your home. It enhances the overall ambiance, highlights key areas, and makes spaces feel welcoming for guests. Using a combination of natural light, overhead lighting, table lamps, floor lamps, and accent lights adds depth and creates a comfortable environment.



Maximize natural light during the day by keeping windows clean and using light, airy curtains. In the evening, warm-toned bulbs and dimmers create a soft, relaxing glow that encourages conversation and comfort. Accent lighting can draw attention to artwork, plants, or decorative pieces, adding visual interest to living areas, kitchens, and entryways.

Adjusting lighting according to the season ensures your home always feels fresh and cozy. Thoughtful lighting choices make entertaining easier and help your space leave a lasting, positive impression on every guest.

4. Clean Your Home Before Guests Come

Cleaning your home properly before guests arrive is essential for creating a comfortable and welcoming environment. A tidy, organized space not only looks appealing but also helps your guests feel at ease. Focusing on key areas such as living rooms, kitchens, bathrooms, and entryways ensures that the spaces guests are most likely to use are spotless and inviting.



Start by decluttering surfaces and putting items in their proper places. Dusting, vacuuming, and wiping down furniture and fixtures removes dirt and allergens, giving your home a fresh feel. Pay attention to often-overlooked spots like baseboards, light switches, and behind furniture, as these small details make a big difference.

Organizing and cleaning in a structured way saves time and reduces stress. By following the right cleaning techniques and prioritizing high-traffic areas, you can create a polished, comfortable home that impresses guests from the moment they arrive.

Preparation Matters: Create a Checklist and Arrange Supplies

First things first! Jot down a comprehensive cleaning checklist to cover the entire home. This is the right time to prioritise a specific area or task, such as entryway, living room, guest room, toilets, etc. This way, you can streamline the entire process without feeling overwhelmed.

Moreover, arrange all the cleaning products and tools to save time and energy. If guests are coming on short notice, make the most of available cleaning supplies, such as cleaning cloths, vacuums, mops, brushes, etc to tackle dust and grime. You can also prepare DIY natural cleaning products using magical ingredients from your kitchen pantry. This includes white vinegar, baking soda, lemon, salt, etc. Preparing in advance can make your life a lot easier.



Declutter Common Areas

Don't delay! Start by removing unwanted items from your common rooms, such as living areas, entryways and hallways. This may include piles of laundry, dirty dishes, magazines, toys, boots, trash and other items. Reducing clutter can instantly make your house look cleaner and more spacious. The best part is that you can easily access dirt and grime from hard to reach places in no time. Isn't it amazing!

Tip: Put them back in their designated places, like books on the bookshelf, dirty dishes in the dishwasher, etc.

Tidy the Kitchen Surfaces

Preparing delicious food is a common activity when guests arrive. However, keeping it clean and germ free is imperative for several reasons. Greasy, grimy and stained kitchen appliances, counters and cabinets ruin the first impression and harbour harmful germs that can lead to various health concerns, like food poisoning. So, it is good to do the following tasks before they arrive:

- Degrease your kitchen cabinets using vinegar solution.
- Clean your oven using baking soda and vinegar
- Steam clean your microwave
- Clean your fridge and dishwasher inside and outside
- Remove oil stains and grease from countertops and sinks using baking soda
- Disinfect faucets and other contaminated areas using rubbing alcohol

You can also book professionals for a cheap end of lease cleaning Sydney to secure your hard earned bond money.



Clean the Carpet and Floors

Vacuum your carpets to remove embedded dust bunnies, pollen and pet hair. Use a HEPA-friendly machine with the right brush attachment. For stains and grime, blot the surface using a white vinegar solution. This will transfer the gunk onto the cloth. To refresh your carpets, sprinkle baking soda and vacuum it up in 10 minutes/.

It is good to sweep and mop hardwood floor using a pH-neutral cleaner to prevent discolouration and permanent damage.

These are some of the best ways to prepare your home for guests. You can easily spruce up your house, tidy common areas, deep clean important rooms and create a welcoming environment for your visitors. This will leave a lasting impression on them while boosting your confidence as a responsible homemaker.

5. Place Thoughtful Decorative Touches in Common Spaces

Adding thoughtful decorative touches in common spaces is an easy way to make your home feel welcoming and personalized for guests. Small details, such as fresh flowers, scented candles, or carefully arranged cushions, can instantly brighten living rooms, kitchens, and entryways. These accents show attention to detail and create a comfortable, inviting atmosphere.



Consider items that reflect your personal style while enhancing the overall aesthetic of the space. Decorative bowls, artwork, or small plants can add color and texture, while neat arrangements of magazines, books, or table settings contribute to a polished look.

By placing thoughtful touches throughout your common areas, you create a cohesive and appealing environment that makes guests feel appreciated and at ease, enhancing their overall experience in your home.

Window treatments do more than add style to a room. They also offer privacy, lighting control, and add depth and personality to a space.

Pamela O'Brien, president and lead designer at Pamela Hope Designs, recommends "to hang window treatments such as draperies that frame the windows and offer privacy and light filtering properties."

Controlling the lighting in a room can help set the right ambiance.



Veronica Sanders of Design with Veronica Sanders explains that a room with too much light can be a strain on the eyesight, and she suggests controlling lighting with window treatments to help set the mood and function of the space.

"Even blinds feel like they're floating on the walls when they're not framed with window treatments. Window treatments are one of the quickest and easiest ways to frame a space and give a room life," she adds.

Adding window treatments is a versatile way to add style to a room, and you can complete a space using window treatments at many different price points.

Rugs can do it all when it comes to elevating a room. They add texture, color, interest, and comfort. Rugs are another design element that's popular among the experts for their ability to anchor a room and add comfort.



O'Brien explains that a rug "is soft underfoot and helps anchor the living area or bed in the room." Grouping furniture around a rug creates a natural spot for lounging and conversation.

Rugs are easy to find in any design style and at various price points, so you can easily find something that works for your room.

Sanders describes lighting as "the jewelry of any room." She emphasizes the transformative power of the right fixture, saying it "can add contrast and interest, while the wrong light fixtures can make a space feel dated and incomplete."

She recommends updating lighting during renovations, adding recessed lights, dimmers, and pendants to set the mood and scale.

"The light emitted fills the room, sometimes adding color play with shadow, not to mention style," she says.

Adding thoughtful decorative touches in common spaces enhances the warmth and appeal of your home. Small details like fresh flowers, candles, cushions, or well-arranged decor create a

welcoming environment that immediately impresses guests. These accents reflect your personal style while making shared areas comfortable and visually appealing.

Even minor changes, such as arranging books, decorative bowls, or table settings, contribute to a polished, inviting look. By paying attention to these details, you transform ordinary spaces into areas that feel cared for and stylish. Thoughtful decor in common areas ensures your home is not only guest-ready but also leaves a lasting positive impression.

6. Refresh Cushions, Throws, Curtains, and Home Fragrances

Refreshing cushions, throws, curtains, and home fragrances is an easy way to instantly uplift your home's ambiance before guests arrive. Swapping old cushions or throws for clean, colorful, or textured ones can add warmth and style to living areas and bedrooms. Updating curtains with lighter or seasonally appropriate fabrics enhances natural light and brightens the space.



Home fragrances, such as scented candles, diffusers, or fresh flowers, create a welcoming environment and leave a lasting impression. These small but thoughtful updates make your home feel cozy, inviting, and polished, showing guests that every detail has been considered for their comfort and enjoyment.

Cushions

Cushions are an easy and effective way to refresh your living spaces. Swap out old or worn cushions for new ones with bright colors, interesting patterns, or varied textures. Arrange them neatly on sofas, chairs, or window seats to create a comfortable and stylish look. Updated cushions instantly add warmth and personality, making your home feel more inviting and ready for guests.

Throws

Throws add warmth, texture, and style to any room. Drape clean, colorful, or textured throws over sofas, chairs, or beds to instantly refresh your space. They create a cozy, inviting atmosphere for guests while complementing cushions and other decor elements.

Curtains

Abruptly short curtains are like an ill-fitting miniskirt unflattering and cheap-looking (even if they cost you a fortune). Floor length drapes are so much easier on the eye and create a romantic ambiance as a gentle breeze billows through them. Add extra luxe by making sure your curtain rod is 30 centimetres wider than the window.



Home Fragrances

Home fragrances play a vital role in creating a welcoming atmosphere for guests. Using scented candles, essential oil diffusers, or fresh flowers can make your living spaces feel fresh and

inviting. Choose subtle, pleasant scents that enhance the mood without overwhelming the senses. Placing fragrances strategically in entryways, living areas, and bathrooms leaves a lasting impression, making your home feel cozy, cared for, and ready to host visitors comfortably.

Refreshing cushions, throws, curtains, and home fragrances is a simple yet effective way to enhance your home before entertaining guests. Updated cushions and throws add comfort, color, and texture to living areas, making spaces feel cozy and stylish. Seasonal or clean curtains brighten rooms and allow natural light to enhance the ambiance. Home fragrances, including candles, diffusers, or fresh flowers, create a welcoming scent that leaves a positive impression. Together, these small but thoughtful updates transform your home into a polished, inviting, and guest-ready space, showing care for both style and comfort.



Bottom Line

The bottom line in refreshing your home decor before entertaining guests is that small, thoughtful changes can make a big difference. Decluttering and reorganizing key areas, adding seasonal or trendy accents, adjusting lighting, cleaning thoroughly, and updating cushions, throws, curtains, and fragrances all contribute to a warm, welcoming environment. Paying attention to details ensures your home feels comfortable, stylish, and guest-ready. By combining organization, decor updates, and ambiance enhancements, you can create a space that impresses visitors and makes entertaining easier and more enjoyable, leaving a lasting positive impression on everyone who steps through your door.

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