MY DECORATING JOURNAL

My Decorating Journal

How to Use & Get the Most
From Your Personal Companion for Effortless Decorating

Welcome to your Decorating Journal—a collection of easy-to-follow decorating guides to give you clear, practical decorating advice that **answers the most frequently asked questions** about DIY interior decorating - *no matter your decorating style!*

Whether for everyday styling or seasonal and holiday updates, by using these guides, you'll gain the confidence you need to decorate your home beautifully.

As a newsletter subscriber, each week you will receive a new decorating guide filled with simple, actionable tips anyone can use, no matter your decorating experience.

Here's how to make the most of your journal:
- Print and Organize: Print each new guide, then add it to your Decorating Journal (more on that below). You'll quickly build a customized resource to refer to anytime you decorate.
- Personalize: Use the included lined note pages to jot down ideas, inspiration, shopping lists, and pertinent information (such as paint colors, style numbers, etc.) as you go. Include personal notes to help you remember what worked best, what you'd like to try next, and questions you might want answered. Print as many as you need.

Your Decorating Journal can be more than just a collection of printed pages!
- Consider using a binder and page protectors to keep everything organized in a way that feels special.
- Want to make it even more functional? Stock up on pens, highlighters, and sticky notes to jot down ideas and color swatches. I've gathered my favorite supplies to help you create a journal you'll love using.

[Click here] to shop my recommended supplies to organize, protect and beautify your journal!
Or visit my Amazon page: https://www.amazon.com/shop/worthingcourtblog

Room Decorating 101: The Basics

The Systematic Process

Every good room design starts with the basics. No matter the size, style, or purpose of the room, following a few key steps will set you up for success.

These foundational guidelines work for any space—whether you're starting from scratch or making a few updates.

HOW TO GET STARTED

Assess the Current Space: Take a thorough look at the room as it currently is, noting what you like and what doesn't work.

Set Goals and Identify Needs: Think about how the room will be used—whether for relaxing, entertaining, or both—as this will guide furniture and layout choices. Decide which pieces to keep, replace, or add, and ensure there's enough space for easy movement. If storage is needed, consider shelves, built-ins, or multifunctional furniture to keep things organized.

Identify the Mood: Since our environment has a big impact on how we feel, use 2 or 3 words to define the mood you want your room to have.

Gather Inspiration: Look for ideas in magazines, online, or from homes you admire. This can help clarify what colors, and layouts you prefer.

Make a Wish List: Brainstorm ideas for every possible element you may want. Have a list to be able to prioritize their importance, especially when you are decorating on a budget.

Measure the Space: Ensure you have accurate dimensions of the room, which are critical for planning and purchasing.

Set a Budget: Determine how much you are willing to spend on the project.

Room Decorating 101: Planning Checklist

📌 **Tip: Print out one of the included notes pages to jot down your thoughts and plans so you can keep everything together in your decorating journal.**

1. Assess the Current Space
□ Walk through the room and take note of what you like and what doesn't work.
□ Identify any problem areas (lack of storage, poor lighting, awkward layout, etc..
□ List what must stay and what can be replaced or removed.

2. Define the Purpose & Function
□ What is the primary use of this room? (e.g., relaxing, entertaining, working)
□ How many people will use this space regularly?
□ Does the furniture arrangement support the way you need the space to function?

3. Identify the Mood & Style
□ Choose 2-3 words to describe how you want the room to feel (e.g., cozy, bright, calm).
□ Gather inspiration from magazines, Pinterest, blogs, or real-life spaces you admire.
□ Take note of repeating colors, patterns, and styles in the inspiration you're drawn to.

4. Make a Wish List
□ List everything you'd like to include in this space (furniture, decor, lighting, storage).
□ Highlight the must-haves vs. the nice-to-haves.

5. Measure & Plan
□ Measure the dimensions of the room, including walls, doorways, and windows.
□ Take note of existing elements that will affect furniture placement (electrical outlets vents, lighting).

6. Set a Budget
□ Determine how much you are willing to spend.
□ Research price ranges for key items before making any purchases.

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:
✔ Take photos of your space before making changes to compare progress.
✔ Keep all room dimensions handy when shopping for furniture or decor.
✔ Start with the biggest elements first (furniture, rugs, lighting) before adding smaller details.
✔ Stay flexible! A room often evolves as you go.

Choosing an Interior Color Scheme

Choosing the perfect interior color palette can seem overwhelming. Check out these tips to help you narrow down your options and create a beautiful and cohesive look for your home.

Start with a Base Color

Selecting the base/dominant color for your home will set the tone throughout all of the spaces. Be sure to choose one that reflects the mood you want your home to reflect.

Select Complementary and Accent Colors

Complementary colors are those that sit opposite each other on the color wheel, like blue and orange or yellow and purple. Using opposing colors in a home creates a vibrant and dynamic look.

Accent colors are great for adding a pop of color and should complement the base color without overwhelming it. You'll want to use these colors for smaller elements like throw pillows, artwork, or accessories across different rooms.

Consider the Function of the Room

In a living room, where you might entertain guests or relax with family, warmer colors like beige, brown, or soft yellows can create a welcoming atmosphere. For a home office, you might want colors that promote concentration and creativity, such as muted greens or light grays.

Using an Online Color Palette Generator

Even if you're starting from scratch, these tools can help you visualize how different colors will work together and provide inspiration for creating a cohesive look.

Interior Color Schemes and Their Emotional Impact

• Warm colors include red, orange, and yellow, which are known to evoke feelings of warmth, comfort, and energy.
• Cool colors include blue, green, and purple. These hues are perfect for spaces where you want to unwind and relax.

Use the handy guide (on the next page) to create a cohesive color scheme for your entire home, ensuring each room flows beautifully into another while reflecting your desired aesthetic.

Home Color Scheme Planner

ROOM	DESIRED AESTHETIC	PRIMARY COLOR	SECONDARY COLOR	ACCENT COLOR

Decorating with Color
Simple Steps for a Cohesive & Beautifully Decorated Home

Now that you know how to choose in interior color scheme (see last week's Journal entry), let's put it into action!

Use this guide to break down how to choose, combine, and balance colors.

Already love color? Find fresh inspiration and practical tips.
New to color? Get simple steps for adding it with confidence.
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HERE'S HOW

STEP 1: PICK & BALANCE YOUR COLORS
Use this easy formula:
Primary (60%) – Walls, large furniture, flooring
Secondary (30%) – Chairs, curtains, rugs
Accent (10%) – Decorative accessories, pillows, art,

STEP 2: CHOOSING YOUR COLORS
Primary: Walls, furniture, flooring
  • Calm/Airy: Beige or white
  • Warm/Inviting: Taupe or muted warm shades
  • Sophisticated: Dark, saturated tones
Secondary: Medium-sized furnishings
  • From prints: Choose a pattern containing your primary color; select a prominent secondary shade.
Accent: Adds personality and energy. Use sparingly.
  • From prints: Choose the smallest, most vibrant color. Use on pillows and accessories.

TIPS:
• Choose neutral or muted shades for primary and secondary colors. Save bold colors for accents.
• Use a color wheel to ensure your colors complement one another.
• Look for analogous colors (next to each other on the wheel) for a harmonious look.
• Try complementary colors (opposites on the wheel) for a bolder contrast.
• If something looks off, adjust your accent color first.

NEXT STEPS:
• Record your own 3-color palette on a notes page, included with the journal.
• Test colors together using fabric swatches or paint samples.
• Start small—introduce color with accessories before making bigger commitments like furniture or paint.

Decorating with Color FAQ's

Can you have more than three colors in a room?

Yes! The 3-color palette is a starting point to help create balance and cohesion, but it isn't a strict rule. Just make sure they complement your main palette for a pulled together look.

Can there be more than one accent color?

Great question and the answer is yes! Just divide the 10% accent color rule between multiple accent colors. IE:

- For two, keep the combined total around 10%. One might be 6–7%, and the other 3–4%.
- For three, keep each one minimal—maybe 3–4% each.
- The goal is still balance. Accent colors should be finishing touches, not competing elements.

How do I keep a room with multiple colors looking tasteful - not tacky?

The key is to focus on balance, repetition, and restraint:

- Stick to the 3-color palette rule.
- Repeat colors throughout the room in different ways.
- Use neutrals to break up the color.
- Vary the intensity and texture, not just the color.

How to Mix Patterns

The Magic Mix: A No-Fail Formula To Get It Right Every Time

Mixing patterns can feel overwhelming, but it doesn't have to be! With The Magic Mix, you'll learn an easy, no-fail formula for combining patterns confidently—every single time.

This guide breaks it down into simple steps so you can confidently combine patterns without clashing or overwhelming your space.

THE MAGIC MIX FORMULA

STEP 1: Follow The Magic Mix Formula

Large-Scale Pattern (Main Focus - 60%)
• Statement piece that sets the tone
• Florals, bold geometrics, plaids
• Works best for curtains, rugs, wallpaper, bedding

Medium-Scale Pattern (The Bridge - 30%)
• Bridges the gap between large and small prints
• Stripes, smaller-scale florals or abstracts
• Use for throw pillows, accent chairs, or artwork

Small-Scale Pattern (Subtle Background - 10%)
• A layer that doesn't overwhelm the others
• Tiny prints, tone-on-tone patterns
• Best for pillows, lampshades, or trim details

STEP 2: Keep a Common Thread

To create a balanced look, make sure patterns share at least one of these elements:
✔ Color: Pick one consistent color across all patterns.
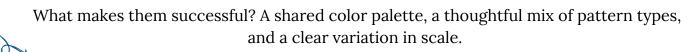✔ Style: Stick to patterns that match your overall decorating style.
✔ Scale: Combine different-sized patterns so they don't compete.
If something looks off, adjust the smallest pattern first—it's usually the easiest to swap out!

TIPS:
• Use fabric swatches to test pattern combinations before committing.
• Try mixing patterns in small ways first —like pillows and throws—before adding them to larger pieces.
• If you're unsure, start with classic combos: Floral + Stripe + Geometric or Plaid + Solid + Organic Print.

No-Fail Pattern Mixing

The pattern mix in each of these examples works because they follow the core principles behind The Magic Mix, even if they don't stick strictly to just three patterns.

What makes them successful? A shared color palette, a thoughtful mix of pattern types, and a clear variation in scale.

The key takeaway: when colors, scale, and pattern types relate to one another, you can confidently use more than three prints and still create a pulled-together look.

Jaclyn Smith Fabrics

Nell Hills

Ballard Designs

Kendall Wilkinson Fabrics