



Life & Style
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N A T E B E R K U S

Oprah's Fave Decorator Shares His Top Tips

*Nate Berkus Answers your home questions.
(Style List Expert Q&A)*

Q: I have lots of family photos displayed in my living room, but the frames are mix-and-match. Should I put all the pictures in similar frames so they look neater?

A: Photos add a special touch to a home, and the frames you choose don't have to match perfectly, but they should look cohesive as a group. For instance, they could all be in the same color family or the same shape or material, like the capiz-shell ones here. Since photo collections grow over the years, it's smart to gather the pictures you have lying around and pare down by picking your favorites.

Q: What's a good way to hide stuff that accumulates around the house?

A: For storage, I like to use a lot of natural and woven items, like baskets. They work anywhere for everything – whether it's to store oversize platters in the kitchen or blankets in the bedroom.

Q: I'm looking for a new chandelier for my living room. Any suggestions on where I can find something unique? And will just one fixture give off enough light?

A: My all-time favorite Web site is 1stdib.com; it's an amazing source for antique lighting and furniture at various prices. I'm a big fan of having more than one lighting option; in my own living room I have wall sconces and a table lamp. I like to be able to control the lighting. That way you can change the entire mood of the room with the flip of a switch.

Q: I'd like to freshen up my bedroom, but I don't have a lot to spend. Any suggestions?

A: New linens are a surefire way to spruce up a bedroom, whether it's with a crisp set of sheets, a printed duvet or a plush throw. Another quick and inexpensive way to change a tired room is to flank the bed with matching tables and cover them with beautiful fabric or slipcovers, which is very popular in Europe. Or try removing your present headboard and replacing it with one that's upholstered. I love styles from Ballard Designs.

Q: What are the hot new trends in home décor this season?

A: I tend to shy away from trends because I don't think they should dictate how you decorate your home. But lately, what I've been finding interesting is the use of materials like:

Snakeskin It's unexpected when it pops up on a frame or a pillow.

Brass This metal is showing up everywhere – lamps, trays, even flatware.

Enamel It looks cool on anything from trinket boxes to end tables.

Q: My apartment is tiny. Does each room have to echo the same decorating style, or can I change it up from room to room?

A: The truth is that something should unify each room. It doesn't all have to be the same color or style, but if you have a Moroccan-inspired bedroom and a modern living room, scattering a few beaded pillows in the living room will tie together the two looks.