

Decor *dreams*

by NATHALIA HARA

Tips on how to shop like a pro



Decorating your home should be a deeply personal journey, one that reflects not just trends, but your unique story and lifestyle. Each piece you choose should feel authentic to who you are and how you live,

whether it's a timeless sofa or a bold statement light fixture. Shopping for items to elevate your home can feel overwhelming without the right approach. Whether you're a seasoned decorator or just starting, it all comes down to strategy. If you are looking for a seasonal refresh, read on for "shop like a pro" tips to help you navigate the process and decorate a space that truly speaks to you.

Define your style

Before you begin, take a moment to define your personal style. Is it modern, rustic or minimalist? Understanding your style is crucial to creating a cohesive look. **Pro tip:** Create a vision board of styles, textures and items that resonate with you to guide your decisions and avoid impulse buys that don't fit your aesthetic.

Set a realistic budget

Know how much money you can spend. This is essential when shopping for home decor. Furniture and accessories can vary widely in price, so put aside a sum for each category. Prioritize spending on key items that will last and consider using more affordable options for accessories that can be swapped out over time.

Invest in timeless pieces

Look for classic designs such as a well-made leather sofa or an elegant dining table that can adapt to various fashions and trends over time. Investing in high-quality pieces ensures your home stays stylish for years to come. **Pro tip:** Focus on craftsmanship and versatility. Neutral-coloured pieces can be updated with different accessories to reflect changing tastes and seasons without needing a complete overhaul.

Mix high- and low-end items

For a professional look to home decor, mix expensive statement pieces with more affordable finds. Splurge on one or two key items, such as a designer armchair, while balancing your space with budget-friendly accessories such as pillows or accessories

Measure your space and plan ahead

Be mindful of the size of your furniture and the flow of traffic in a room. Always measure your space carefully to avoid buying furniture that will overwhelm it. **Pro tip:** Bring a tape measure with you when shopping for large furniture.



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If you're shopping online, check the product dimensions and compare them with your available space. Don't forget to measure doorways to ensure your new piece fits through the threshold.

Sofa shopping

Your couch is often the centrepiece of a living room, so getting it right is crucial. Consider the size of the room. Ensure the sofa fits comfortably in scale and traffic flow. Think about the upholstery that works best for your lifestyle. Leather or microfibre is great for easy cleaning, while linen or velvet offers a luxurious touch but requires more maintenance. **Pro tip:** Test a couch thoroughly before purchasing. Sit on it for extended periods to ensure comfort. Pay attention to cushion firmness and choose a piece with removable cushions for better wear and maintenance.

Quality over quantity

Focus on fewer, high-quality pieces that will stand the test of time. Examine the craftsmanship—materials, stitching and finishes. Well-made pieces elevate the look of your home and add style to a space

Pro tip: If possible, invest in custom-made pieces that are tailored to your needs and preferences. Bespoke items often add a unique touch to your home.

Don't overcrowd a space

Less is often more in home decor. Avoid cramming too many items into a room. Allow each piece to breathe and create a balanced layout that feels open and welcoming. **Pro Tip:** Experiment with furniture placement before making a purchase. Move items around to give you a fresh perspective on how they interact within the space.

Care and intention

Shopping for home decor items can be a rewarding experience when you approach it thoughtfully. By staying true to your style, making strategic investments and embracing a mix of quality and personality, you'll curate a space that's functional and beautiful. The key is to remain patient, plan ahead and trust your instincts—because a beautifully designed home doesn't happen overnight, it evolves with care and intention.