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Small spaces: Décor tricks for a bigger living room

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Many small living room ideas pivot on their ability to trick the eye into believing that the space is bigger than it actually is.

These 'tricks of the trade' go a long way to transform a small room into an inviting and aesthetically pleasing space.

Claire Gibson, from **La-Z-Boy**, says you can maximise space by paying attention to how you use colour, scale and weight.

She says trying new things is exciting, and it is just what you need to do when decorating small spaces.

Regardless of its size, your living room needs to function as a space for relaxation and entertainment, so keep that in mind when selecting your décor and layout.

Claire shares some tips...

1. Choose a small sofa

When space is limited, it can often feel that your choice of furnishings are too.

Fortunately, a plethora of scaled-down furnishings are becoming available.



You can now get scaled-down sofas, also known as apartment sofas, which have slimmer dimensions, sleeker designs, exposed legs and smaller arms.

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You can now get scaled-down sofas, also known as apartment sofas, which have slimmer dimensions, sleeker designs, exposed legs and smaller arms.

These pieces remove the 'bulk' and create the impression that the sofa is 'floating' on legs, which establishes the illusion of more space.

2. Arrange your furniture wisely

It is essential to carefully measure the space in question before choosing any furniture. This way, you can get a visual sense of how things will fit.

If the space doesn't allow for a small sofa and a couple of single seaters, then you should consider a scaled-down corner suite instead.

Although they are larger than a two-seater, compact corner suites are ideal for cramped spaces as they offer the same amount of seating as a two-seater and two single seaters, but take up a smaller footprint. They also maximise the use of awkward corner spaces.

3. Decorate with mirrors

Mirrors are a great addition to any small interior space, as they reflect light and create the illusion of added space.

A large mirror hung in a central location in a living room is a great way to create an attractive focal point.

If you want to maximise light, hang a mirror behind a light source such as a downlight, lamp or pendant light.

Alternatively, you can position it in such a manner that it reflects the natural light and view coming in from the windows opposite, making the room feel brighter.

4. Moving on up

Emphasising a room's height will immediately make it feel bigger.

Use the wall space all the way up to the ceiling to draw the eye up and create vertical dimensions in the composition.

Floor-to-ceiling curtains are a stylish way to accomplish this goal, as are groupings of artworks that reach all the way to the ceiling. These kinds of installations invite the eye to roam beyond the eye-level and horizontal space that often feels confined.



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5. Love the layers

Squeezing one piece of furniture in front of another is a way to build function or storage into a tiny living room.

Try including a small dresser behind your sofa to create a surface for table lamps, or tuck poufs under the coffee table for added seating that can be taken out and used when required.

The trick is to use every available space possible in a practical and aesthetically streamlined manner, so that you get the maximum use out of it without making the room feel cramped.