



HOME HOME & GARDEN

## Tips for creating the perfect family room

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Credit: Alpine Lounge



The family room should be a place to chill out and spend time together. Here are some design tips for creating the best social family room...

"With our busy modern lifestyles and the ever present temptation of technology always on hand, modern families are spending less and less quality time together. However, with the help of clever design, you can encourage family members to spend more time together, and the family room offers the perfect place for this to happen!" says

Claire Gibson from leading furniture manufacturer, La-Z-Boy:

Here are here some tips for creating the perfect family room space:

### We want to know

What do you think of beards on men?

- Sexy
- Quite nice
- Only suits some men
- Don't mind either way
- Not too keen
- Yuck! Facial hair is not appealing

vote

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## Know the family

The first step is figuring out how everyone in the family would like to use the room.

"Any family room will need to serve a number of different functions – it can be a place where homework gets done, a family entertainment hub, or somewhere to relax, read or converse with one another," says Gibson.

"By including as many requirements of every member of the family into this space, you will be ensuring that everybody feels comfortable and uses this space."

## Kitchen connection

Everybody knows that the kitchen is the heart of the home, and so connecting the family room to the kitchen makes sense.

"By joining the family room and the kitchen, you can create a truly multi-functional room that can be enjoyed by the entire family – for example, you can keep an eye on the kids while they are doing homework or watching TV, while you are preparing meals," says Gibson.

## Choosing colour

When choosing a colour scheme, aim to create a warm and inviting look.

If you want something dramatic, select contrasting colours in bold hues for a bright and modern feel. If you would prefer a softer ambience, choose neutral shades for a more low-key aesthetic.

## Let the light in

There is nothing worse than a dark family room that is depressing and uninviting.

"The more natural light that you can let into this space, the better," says Gibson.

To maximise natural light, use mirrors to mimic and reflect windows.

## Informal and versatile

Place seating to encourage eye contact and interaction.

"It is best to offer a variety of seating choices in a family room so that everybody will be comfortable. I would suggest a couple of occasional chairs or single-seaters, an ottoman or two, and of course a two- or three-seater couch, depending on the size of the room and the family in question," says Gibson. "Motion furniture is an especially great option for this room, as it can cater for a number of different functions – from watching TV to reading, gaming, relaxing, or just sitting together and enjoying each other's company."

## Be practical

When it comes to upholstery, leather is the best bet when it comes to durability and withstanding lots of use by all members of the family. However it is also quite an expensive option.

"If you are opting for fabric upholstery, be sure to select fabric that has been treated. iClean from La-Z-Boy® for example, is a high-performance fabric that incorporates safe, sophisticated chemistry to protect and surround each fibre, repelling spills before they turn into stains. Everyday spills are now protected with iClean, including coffee, wine, salsa, dirt, chocolate and more," says Gibson.

## Create different spaces

Most family rooms have several things going on at once, and so Gibson says that it is a good idea to divide the room into smaller spaces.

"Instead of having one big space that tries to cater for everything, it is much easier to make smaller spaces based on a particular functionality. For example, create seating around the television or fireplace, and keep the play area in a section of its own. You don't need to put up walls to divide the space – instead, create invisible walls by producing lines with furniture, area rugs, paint and so on."