



The Coral Homes
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NEWS FROM THE HOME FRONT

Decorating 101: Common sense tips for your new home

Presented by Juanita Swain from the Coral Homes *Clever Living* team

The process of decorating a home that is still under construction can be a minefield for the inexperienced. However the good news is that we can provide you with some no-nonsense decorating tips to reduce the stress and point you in the right direction.



Flooring tips

To make your smaller spaces appear larger, you can blur the distinction between the walls and floors by choosing similar colours for each. By doing this, your eye won't visually stop at the point where these areas join and you can blur the floor line with the wall line. Some tile companies have a matching wall and floor tile, however, never run a wall tile onto the floor, as wall tiles are generally too soft and slippery to use on the floor.

Large format floor tiles can make a small interior space appear larger. Don't make the mistake of thinking the smaller room, the smaller the tile. Within reason, choose larger tiles to increase the visual appearance of a room. Remember to always check with your builder to ensure you are selecting a tile that meets their building criteria, especially in wet areas where it can be difficult to achieve an appropriate slope (fall) to wastage drains with large format floor tiles.



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With any type of flooring a general rule to remember is that darker colours can make a room appear smaller, whereas lighter colours can make a room appear larger. So it's a good idea to stick to lighter colours in your smaller rooms.

Use of colour

You can change the perceived appearance of a room with clever use of colour. By understanding the properties of advancing (darker) and receding (lighter) colours, you can create optical illusions and change the perceived shape or proportions of a room. Advancing colours can make a wall appear closer whereas receding colours can make the wall appear further away.

Generally speaking, pale colours generally contain lots of whites, so they can make surfaces appear larger because they reflect the light. Dark colours generally contain more black, so they can make surfaces appear smaller, as they don't reflect light.

In your bathrooms, try to keep the colours light and fresh, as this can make the space appear cleaner and more hygienic. If you want to use darker colours, use these colours in accents such as feature tiles or accessories to add interest to the room.

Selecting paints

When selecting paint colours, it is always a good idea to purchase a small sample pot of paint from your local hardware store, as colours can look very different depending on the light you view them in. Colours can also look different depending on the colours close to them.



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If you want to use white, take a look at a few different shades of white and compare them. When you put whites together, some may take on a creamier, yellow appearance while others may take on a starker, blue or green appearance. Comparing your potential wall colour against other colours is a good way to see how your wall colour may appear when actually painted on your walls.

Consider aspect

Remember to consider the aspect of your home when planning colours. Rooms facing north have the best aspect, as you get a lovely filtered sunlight in the room. They also tend not to be too hot or too cold. Rooms facing south do not get direct sunlight, so they tend to be cooler. You can spice these rooms up with warm accent colours like funky oranges or yellows. Rooms facing east will receive the morning sun. This is not as harsh as the western sun, but these rooms can still receive some heat in the morning. Rooms facing west will receive afternoon sun and can be quite hot, so you could treat them with cool, calming accent colours like green or blue.

Talk to the experts

If you're not confident selecting your finishes yourself, you may want to consider employing the services of a qualified interior decorator or designer. An interior decorator is generally an expert on colours and finishes and can help with the decoration of your home. An interior designer can do all this plus help you with the design of your home.



For more ideas on how to decorate your new home take a look at your nearest Coral Homes display or visit www.coralhomes.com.au.

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