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Items with colour will stand out and become more visible when placed against a white background.



Try to add natural elements to white. Baskets, iron and woods pair well with white, and add the calm to the canvas.

Decorating with the right amount of white



KRIS BRIDGEN

BASIC APPEAL

Everyone knows that a can of white paint goes a long way. Even the most outdated trim, baseboard or ceilings look new again with a little effort and little expense.

Even outdated table top items you have been carrying around since your first apartment can be spray painted with white, and voila old is new.

White is experiencing some celebrity as of late. At the check-out line you can glance

over and see any number of magazines with a fabulous white living room calling your name.

Even my eight-year-old has jumped on the white bandwagon. He makes sure to inform all his grade three classmates that white is a shade and not a colour.

White usually appeals to people because it's appears safe, calm and creates the feeling of clean in almost any environment.

Our firm works with white often and understands that using white has numerous benefits, however navigating the right white, and estimating its impact on the rest of your space can be an eye opening experience. It is unlike any other paint experience. I equate it to putting on a fresh crisp shirt.

There is a reason that canvas is white. Any stroke of the brush by an artist in any paint colour has instant impact. The opportunity to create something fabulous sits right in front of you, if you don't know what you're doing; the end result can be less than appealing.

I am not suggesting we over think this white decor thing but there are just a few simple

rules to follow to make sure you are successful in your quest for working with white:

1. Pay no attention to the naysayers: 'You have children, and animals, white is disastrous.' Be smart about your use of white. If you have a busy household, pick another colour you love to augment your white.

2. Main pieces of furniture — sofas and occasional chairs — are usually the larger investment pieces. If these items are slip covered and can be removed for cleaning — just do it! If on the other hand they are not, opt for a colour you love, and build the white around it.

3. White in paint, fabrics, metal and ceramic will all absorb light differently. I

often state to clients do not fret. Don't fixate on matching your whites exactly.

4. It is important your paint selection is chosen carefully. There are numerous whites paints, some more yellow, green, pink or gray. Choose the one that appeals to you the most. Most designers have their white of choice and waffle rarely.

5. Try to add natural elements to white. Baskets, iron and woods pair well with white, and add the calm to the canvas.

6. Texture is important when designing with white, as it adds layering and interest. This is most crucial element as flat and one dimensional is not what you're going for.

7. Know that your non-

white items will seem more obvious now. Your eye will go to the colour or texture in the room and the white will fade to the background.

Now you're ready. Go get a couple of cans of paint and change up your space. It's not as scary as you think. If you hate it, it's only a weekend and a couple of cans to cover it.

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