

# Personalizing your Apartment

Making an apartment feel more like home can be difficult for most renters being limited by space, a lease and the fear of risking a security deposit.

Making your apartment into a space you're happy to live in can be simple.

## WORK WITH WHAT YOU HAVE

As a renter, your decorating is often limited by the cabinetry and color of your walls. If you aren't allowed to change or paint them, the best thing to do is work with what you have to complement them.

Lighting can change the way a room feels. Sub out your plastic window blinds for wood or fabric window curtains. It will give your home a cleaner and more natural feel. Changing your light bulbs can also make your home feel warmer and more welcoming. Switch your soft white bulbs for a brighter white or daylight bulbs.

Investing in nice colorful linens is an easy way to add color to your apartment. Rotating through several colors or patterns for different times of the



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year will keep your apartment feeling fresh and different.

Swapping out ugly doorknob fixtures in your kitchen, cabinets and doors are simple ways to personalize your apartment without breaking the bank or putting your security deposit at risk. Refer to

your lease, contract or landlord before doing so and keep old fixtures and parts to place back in their original spots when you eventually vacate the apartment.

## DIY PROJECTS

DIY projects are simple and

inexpensive ways to personalize your apartment. You can get all the supplies and tools you'll need at any of your local hardware stores. Use websites like Pinterest and YouTube to get some inspiration for your projects.

Does your small kitchen lack

room for storage? Use floating shelves on an empty wall or tight corner that creates space to store items such as bowls, cups and other kitchen items. Hooks can even be drilled to the bottom of those same floating shelves to hang coffee mugs.

There are many products available to renters that are not permanent and will allow you to personalize your apartment. If the white walls of your apartment are too bland for your taste, try investing in removable wallpaper. There are a great number of patterns and colors you can find. Try it on a wall in the living room to add texture and contrast or add removable tile to the kitchen to create a backsplash.

## ADD PLANTS

House plants are another way you can bring life and nature into your home. Plants add better air quality and greenery to your apartment. Plants can be placed in corners of bedrooms, on floating shelves in kitchens, as dinner table center pieces and on your wall.

Succulents are plants that require minimal attention and are ideal for people that want the greenery of plants without all the care and work that come with them. You can find a variety of plants at your nurseries or hardware stores.



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## REAL ESTATE 101



### A Quick Update

When it comes to personalizing pieces of furniture, contact paper is your friend. Use decorative contact paper to cover a piece of cardboard or chipboard and frame it. Cover the interior walls of a bookcase with a decorative contact paper for a pop of color. Use it to line kitchen cabinets or drawers, or cover inexpensive laminated drawer fronts. Add a DIY chalkboard to your refrigerator door, inside the pantry or just about any space it would come in handy with chalkboard contact paper. With a little bit of creativity, the options are endless.

## HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Lease purchase:** a contract between a tenant and an owner by which part of the monthly rent payments may go toward down payment on the property. When pre-determined sufficient funds are received by the seller, the buyer may seek a first mortgage through a typical lender or in some cases with the seller.

SOURCE: MLS.com

# AD SPACE