

## Making a House a Home

You've signed the closing papers and now the task begins of turning the property into a home.

Transforming a house into a home involves more than just unpacking boxes — it requires personal touches and intentional efforts to create a warm and welcoming environment. While there are many ways to do this, ultimately you should choose what makes you feel safe and happy.

### PERSONALIZE YOUR SPACE

Adding personal touches through décor and sentimental items is an effective way to infuse your personality and create a sense of familiarity in your new home. Hang family photos, display cherished mementos and incorporate artwork or decorations that reflect your style and interests.

Hanging art is a great first step, according to Moving.com. Research reveals that looking at art reduces stress and makes people happy. What's more, the art you own speaks to your style and taste. Putting it up helps personalize your space and make you feel more at home.

When you surround yourself with objects that hold sen-



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### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Bill of Lading

If you hire professional movers to help you move to your new home, chances are you'll sign a bill of lading. It is a legal document that serves as a contract between you and the movers and acts as a receipt. It includes such things as the date of the move, the addresses of the old and new homes, the list of items being transported and any special instructions or requests, including the agreed-upon terms and conditions.

timental value, you can quickly establish an emotional connection with your new space.

#### GET ORGANIZED

It's tempting to unpack all your boxes as quickly as possible and put the stress of moving behind you. However, taking time to figure out how you

want to organize your life can turn your new house into a home that makes you happy for years to come. Think about how you want to organize the pantry, closets, drawers, the garage or the storage shed.

If you're a reader, fill your shelves with books so that you can immediately see those

familiar titles and give yourself something to relax with right away. Enjoy the process of deciding how you want to sort the books on your shelf.

Set up your entertainment center so that everything is the way you want it — including screens facing the way you want, cords being organized

and power outlets being easy to access.

#### COZY ATMOSPHERE

Focus on creating a cozy and inviting atmosphere that makes you and your family feel relaxed and at ease. Incorporate cozy textures such as soft blankets, plush rugs and comfortable pillows to make your living spaces feel warm and welcoming. Consider using scents like candles, essential oils or fresh flowers to enhance the sensory experience and evoke positive emotions in your home.

Create lighting that makes you happy, whether that is warm lighting with lamps and candles or string lights that add a soft and comforting ambiance.

#### ENGAGE

Get involved in the community and meet your neighbors. Attend local events, join community groups or clubs and take advantage of neighborhood amenities. Engaging with others and participating in activities that align with your interests can help establish social connections and create a support network within your new community. If you're not ready to dive in yet — take time to sit on your front porch and wave to neighbors.



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### HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

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**Zero lot lines:** When a building is positioned so that it rests either directly on the lot's boundary line, or so close to the boundary line that there is minimal yard or space between the structure and adjacent structure. **SOURCE:** MLS.com

# AD SPACE