
Furnishing a New Home

Where Do I Start?

A practical designer's guide to creating a beautiful, comfortable, and cohesive home—without making every decision at once.





Start with the Right Foundation

1. Start With How You Want to Live

Before choosing furniture, think about how you will use your home. Consider how your family lives day to day, whether you entertain often, whether you need pet-friendly or family-friendly fabrics, and which spaces matter most to complete first.

2. Begin With the Floor Plan

A beautiful room starts with a plan. Space planning helps determine the right furniture scale, comfortable traffic flow, and whether pieces like sectionals, dining tables, and accent chairs will truly fit your room.



Designer Tip

Choose three words that describe how you want your home to feel—such as comfortable, welcoming, and refined. Let those words guide your decisions.



Build Around the Rooms That Matter Most

3. Prioritize the Rooms That Matter Most

You do not need to furnish every room at once. Start with the spaces that have the biggest impact on daily life—often the living room, primary bedroom, and dining area. Once those anchor rooms are in place, the rest of the home becomes easier to build around.

4. Select the Largest Pieces First

Begin with foundational furnishings such as the sofa or sectional, dining table, bed, and major case pieces. These larger selections establish scale, function, and overall direction, making it much easier to layer in rugs, lighting, accent tables, and accessories.



Designer Tip

Think foundation first, layers *second*. Start with the pieces you use every day, then build the room around them.



Create Cohesion Through Color and Layers

5. Create a Whole-Home Color Story

Your rooms do not need to match, but they should feel connected. Repeating a few colors, wood tones, or metal finishes throughout the home helps create a cohesive look that feels intentional, relaxed, and beautifully collected.

6. Layer in Rugs, Lighting & Textiles

Rugs define spaces and anchor the furniture. Lighting adds warmth, function, and mood. Fabrics, pillows, drapery, and upholstery introduce softness, texture, and personality—the layers that make a home feel finished.



Designer Tip

Do not save rugs for last. Their size and placement can shape your furniture layout from the very beginning.



Bring the Home to Life

7.

Add the Finishing Details

Artwork, mirrors, greenery, books, and decorative accessories give a home personality. These pieces help your rooms feel collected, lived in, and uniquely yours.

8.

Think About the Entire Home

Even if you furnish in phases, it helps to plan with the big picture in mind. A thoughtful direction for the entire home helps future selections feel connected instead of pieced together.

9.

Give Yourself Permission to Take Your Time

A beautiful home does not have to happen overnight. Start with the most important pieces, establish a clear direction, and add layers thoughtfully as your home evolves.

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*The goal is not just to fill a home.
The goal is to create one that feels like you.*

Your New-Home Furnishing Checklist

Use this checklist to keep your home furnishing journey organized and on track. A well-planned approach helps you create a home that feels intentional, comfortable, and uniquely yours.

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| ☐ Room measurements and delivery access | ☐ Rugs and lighting |
| ☐ Furniture layouts and traffic flow | ☐ Accent tables and storage |
| ☐ Lifestyle needs and performance fabrics | ☐ Window treatments |
| ☐ Sofa or sectional | ☐ Artwork and accessories |
| ☐ Dining table and seating | ☐ Budget priorities |
| ☐ Bed and bedroom essentials | ☐ What can wait until later |



Need help getting started?

I can help with space planning, furniture selection, fabrics, rugs, lighting, and the finishing details—so your new home feels beautiful, comfortable, and cohesive from the beginning.

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