

THIS
MAGAZINE
PAYS FOR
ITSELF!

Enjoy life for less!

all you

INSIDE
\$68.55
WORTH OF
COUPONS

Issue 9, September 23, 2011

Pumpkin
family how-tos
PAGE 132

82 WAYS TO Save MORE

On food, beauty
and household
supplies

Walk off
weight *fast*
Shed stubborn
pounds

26
Low-cost
recipes

CLIP COUPONS?
HERE'S THE LATEST INFO
YOU NEED TO KNOW



Furnish your living room on a budget

Whether you're starting with a blank slate or doing a mini makeover, use this guide to pull together a look that's comfortable, inviting and value-savvy. The total price tag: less than \$2,800 (including the sofa!)

Get started

Employ these strategies to make the best choices.

1 Define the purpose. Identify the main activity that will take place in the room: Will you use the space for visiting with friends and family? Watching television? Do you need a work area? Make a list of the furniture you require to facilitate these functions.

2 Determine your budget. Don't look at money as a constraint. Knowing how much you can spend is a helpful guideline that allows you to focus on what makes sense. Keep in mind that you don't have to purchase everything all at once. It's actually preferable to stretch out the decorating process—and the monetary outlay—over as many months as it takes. That way, you can live with each purchase for a while and let it help guide you to your next acquisition.

3 Measure everything, including the length of the walls, the size and placement of the windows and doors, and the height of the ceiling. Then make a sketch, which doesn't need to be proportionately accurate as long as you write in the measurements. It can help you choose confidently as you shop.

4 Devise a plan. Use furniture you have around the house to get an idea of what will fit and what looks proportionate to the room. For instance, line up some dining chairs where you plan to put the sofa to help you determine the length that will work best. Make a list of all the items you will need.

5 Choose a style and color palette. Find photos of rooms you like in magazines and catalogs to give yourself a vision for the room. Formulate an idea of what you want, but to hold down costs, you might need to be flexible. Keep your measurements and your list with you so you're ready to grab bargains.

6 Go shopping! The sofa is the biggest piece in the living room, and generally the costliest, so it makes sense to purchase it first. Above, the updated traditional style of the sofa sets the tone for the room.

BEST BUY
This sofa is just \$800!



Save on stylish home décor

Try these sources for great deals.

➤ **HomeGoods**
You can find everything from knickknacks to furniture here. Visit homegoods.com to find a store near you.

➤ **Overstock.com**
Tempting prices and \$3 shipping make this site a winner.

➤ **Smartbargains.com**
Shop for discounted designer goods at bargain prices.

➤ **World Market**
If your tastes run toward the exotic, check out this spot. Go to worldmarket.com to shop online or find a store near you.

➤ **Curtainworks.com**
Window treatments can be pricey, but this site is filled with unbelievable steals.

➤ **Homedecorators.com**
You'll find everything you need to outfit your home, all at rock-bottom prices.

➤ **Etsy.com**
Shop this site for handmade and vintage items.

➤ **Christmas Tree Shops**
These stores are a treasure trove of décor finds. Go to christmastrees.com to find a location near you.

STYLING: JESSICA WATSON/STYLING

CHRIS DEAN

Finish the job

It's easy to lose momentum once the furniture is in place. But accessories make a room feel complete. Plus, adding pillows, art and personal objects is the fun part!

1 Soften the room with fabric curtains

Ains curtains (57" x 98" per panel), \$50 for 2 panels; at Ikea.

2 Look for unusual pieces

Decorative pig, \$22, and rustic leaf frame (65 1/2" x 8 1/2" picture), \$17, Sonoma Life and Style; at Kohl's.

3 Use pillows and accessories to add pops of bright color

Ceramic-egg table lamp (24" H), Haeger Potteries, \$100; lamps plus.com. Pillows, Martha Stewart Collection, \$50-\$100 each; at Macy's.

4 Style a still life on a coffee table

Everglades round tray, \$30; zgallerie.com. Glass vase, \$10; lunabazaar.com.

5 Add a touch of whimsy with a funky ottoman

Pouf (16" x 20"), \$70; worldmarket.com. Throw (50" x 60"), Martha Stewart Collection, \$60; at Macy's.

6 Choose art in the same palette as your furnishings

Summer Nasturtiums framed print (35" x 23"), \$145, and Marigold framed print (35" x 29"), \$140; art.com.

HANG IT HIGH

Make your ceiling appear taller by mounting curtain hardware at the top of the wall.

STRIKE A BALANCE

Mixing curved shapes such as the ottoman and tray with straight lines, like the sofa and coffee table, creates visual appeal.

DIY PROJECT

Add a fabric embellishment.

Transform a ho-hum pillow without any sewing. Cut a square of fabric in the desired size. Use double-sided fusible interfacing to adhere to pillow cover (follow the directions on the interfacing). Attach ribbon or trim around the edges with fabric glue.



DIY PROJECT



Make over a floor lamp.

Give the base an interesting new look with rope. All you need is about 100 feet of heavy-duty three-ply sisal or other rope, all-purpose glue and a paintbrush. Starting at top, apply glue with paintbrush to top 6" of base. Start winding rope around base, pressing it down on the glue as you work. Hold in place until it begins to set. Apply glue to next 6" and continue until the entire base is covered.

TALLY

Couch.....	\$800
Patterned chair.....	\$380
Rug.....	\$195
Wicker chair.....	\$80
Coffee table.....	\$199
End table.....	\$112
Étagère.....	\$169
Lamp.....	\$100
Art.....	\$285
Curtains.....	\$100
Ottoman.....	\$70
Pig.....	\$22
Rustic leaf frame.....	\$17
Tray.....	\$30
Pillows.....	\$150
Throw.....	\$60
Vases.....	\$20
Grand total: *\$2,789	

Dress up plain curtains. Make them look special with inexpensive trim. Adhere with Stitch Witchery or fabric glue. For tiebacks, use wide ribbon.



Furnish your living room on a budget



6 Choose art in the same palette as your furnishings

Summer Nasturtiums framed print (35" x 23"), \$145, and Marigold framed print (35" x 29"), \$140; art.com.