



Interior Design Tips For First-Time Homeowners

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Buying your first home is a big step in life. From the location, the style of the home and everything else in between, people want things to be perfect.

While curb appeal might give the first impression of the house, the real “sellers” are on the inside.

First-time homeowners might want to go all out when designing the interior of their new home, but it’s important to keep a few things in mind.

ESTATENVY caught up with Design associate Amanda Barkley of [Rae Duncan Interior Design](#) in Chicago to discuss things to consider for designing the interior of that first big purchase.

ESTATENVY: What are some interior design tips that you would give to first-time homeowners?

Amanda Barkley: Go slow. Design looks best when it's done in bits and pieces, and curated over time. Doing it all at once may give you the immediate gratification of having everything done, but we can assure you that it will look too "done". Instead, take your time and only incorporate things you really, truly love into your home. If you do this, the design you end up with will be more reflective of you and your likes, interests, travels, hobbies, etc.

EE: Is it best to keep it simple when it comes to interior design with your first home, or should you always try to be trendy?

AB: We think that simple and sophisticated always wins when it comes to interior design. Less is always more. Restraint should be your best friend when incorporating trends into your home, especially when it's your first home. You don't want to look at it in a year and hate everything or think that it's dated, especially if you can't afford to change things all over again, as so many first-time homeowners can't. For this reason, it's best to stick with simple and timeless decor in your first home.

EE: Are there any major things to avoid doing when designing your first home?

AB: We don't recommend buying everything for any given room all from one store. Doing this is a surefire way to make your space devoid of anything uniquely you. People will be able to pinpoint where you got things, when what you really want them to take away from your home is the story it tells about you and who you are.