



Creating the functional and inviting home

Advice by Jane Bianchi, interior decorator at Factory Paint and Decorating.

Decorating is not about creating a magazine look. It's about making your home functional and inviting to family and friends.

If you would like some help, you might make an appointment with one of the interior decorators or designers at Factory Paint and Decorating in Weymouth, Pembroke or Plymouth. There is no charge for a consultation at the store. A follow-up visit to your home is \$100 for the first hour, with \$50 applied to any custom orders. Subsequent visits to your home are \$50 per hour.

The first step in decorating is to establish priorities.

"You should focus on what's most important to you," said Jane Bianchi, a custom interior decorator at The Design Center in the Weymouth store. "If you'd like privacy in the room, we might do something with the windows. If the room is empty, we might start with furniture. If the floor is cold, maybe you

need carpeting right away." You should consider your long-term needs as well as the immediate project.

"A lot of times, people will buy something based on emotion. Then when they have more money, they will go on to the next thing and the next thing and they wonder why the room doesn't look good," she said. "You should have a fairly well-defined plan and work on it, whether it's six months or six years. Many times, when we're looking at fabrics, customers will see something that doesn't work for the room they're redecorating, but would be perfect in another room that they plan to do in the future."

The next step is to choose the color scheme.

"Once you get the colors right, everything else falls into place," said Bianchi. "And that means colors that are right by you, colors that please you the most."

If you're not sure about colors, take your cues from the room and your keepsakes. There may be one piece of furniture that is special to you, a rug that's absolutely smashing or a piece of artwork you love. If the room is empty, consider the color in the fireplace or

another prominent fixture.

"We see what strong features exist and work off that to make the color scheme pleasing to you and give the room vitality and interest," Bianchi said.

If a room is visible from another room, you should choose coordinating colors. Other than that, there are no hard-and-fast rules about matching colors from room to room.

"We want people to search their souls - really think about what they like," she said. "Many people have heard so much

designer or decorator at Factory Paint and Decorating.

"If you reach for something that I don't think is going to be effective for you, I'll bring you back to what you've told me about how you plan to use the room and the look you want for the room," said Bianchi. "A lot of interior decorating is keeping the customer on track."

Bianchi and the other professionals at Factory Paint will also help you "kick it up a notch."

"We want to give our customers ideas and show them designs in fabric, window treatments or furniture placement that they might not have thought about themselves. A little risk-taking is good."

Factory Paint and Decorating offers one-stop shopping for all your home and office decorating needs. Each store sells paint, hardware, wallpaper, framed art, bedding, carpeting, all kinds of flooring, ready-made and custom-made upholstered furniture, blinds and window treatments. The Weymouth store also has a fully-furnished showroom in The Design Center.

"You should focus on what's most important to you"

decorating advice that they want the colors to flow. It can mean that the colors are in the same degree of intensity or the colors are close to one another on the color wheel."

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