



Come out of the cold

There are many ways to warm up your home during the cooler months

Home furnishing and decorating does not have to be an expensive endeavour, as even small or inexpensive items can turn your home into an attractive, warm and comfortable abode.

Karla Martin from Red Works, Paddington, offers some easy ways to update and warm your home during the winter months.

"Winter is always a good time to change or add cushions and rugs. Adding plush velvet cushions in darker, wintery colours or faux furs is an easy way to warm up a room. A lovely throw draped over a chair or sofa which then doubles as a wrap or blanket on a cool night is a great idea too," says Karla.

As the months get cooler, home interiors tend to change, she says.

"Colours tend to become darker, textures become richer and more plush. Leather, faux furs and animal prints are also popular winter trends."

Karla is seeing a return to glamour.

"Velvets and metallics are very prominent and there is a look of casual elegance with the furnishings and window coverings which are featuring in our homes this season. Black and white continue to be big, as do earthy browns, greys, reds and earthy oranges."

Karla explains that a lot of thought needs to go into deciding what you want when changing a room.

"Every room needs a focal point and deciding on that focal point enables you to work other furniture and accessories back around that. A focal point may be a beautiful rug, a piece of art, a statement chair or a stunning view. Many people get enthusiastic and start with a paint colour and find it difficult to get fabrics to work back with the paint colour they have selected and the pieces of furniture that they want to put in to the room. I believe the fabrics in a room are the most important to get right," says Karla.

Kate Spencer, from Pillow Talk says that changing furnishings in your bedroom will make you more comfortable in winter.

"Increasing the weight of your doona, adding blankets and using fluffy bath robes and mats will keep you warm and cosy" says Kate.

"It's important to look at the size of the room as small rooms need lighter colours. Co-ordinate your throws and cushions in the accent colours of grape and plum. Black and chocolate remain favourite colours for winter. Adding texture with knits and tailored cushions is another way to update a room."

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