

SIMPLY GRACIOUS LIVING

Budget Decorating Checklist

A practical companion for creating a beautiful room without letting impulse purchases take over.

Decorating on a budget is not about settling for less. It is about slowing down, using what you already have, deciding where your money matters most, and shopping with a plan.

Before You Shop

- Decide how you want the room to **feel** before deciding what to buy.
- Set a realistic total budget for the room or project.
- Make a list of what the room truly needs - not simply what catches your eye.
- Measure the room, walls, furniture, and any spaces you plan to fill.
- Take photos of the room with you when you shop.
- Save paint colors, fabric swatches, and measurements on your phone.

Shop Your Home First

- Walk through other rooms and look for pieces that could work better here.
- Check closets, cabinets, storage areas, and seasonal décor before buying something new.
- Consider moving artwork, lamps, pillows, trays, vases, greenery, or small furniture.
- Ask: *Have I already overlooked the answer?*
- Ask: *What could this become?* before discarding something you already own.

Decide Where to Save - and Where to Invest

Often Worth Investing In	Easy Places to Save
A well-made sofa or frequently used chair	Pillow covers and seasonal textiles
A quality rug when it anchors the room	Vases, trays, baskets, and small accessories
Lighting used every day	Secondhand frames and artwork
Furniture you expect to keep for years	DIY artwork and refinished décor
One meaningful focal piece	Greenery, stems, and decorative accents

When You Are Shopping

- Carry your measurements and stick to them.
- Ask where the piece will go before putting it in your cart.
- Check quality, condition, scale, and proportion - not just price.
- Look beyond the current finish. Paint, hardware, fabric, or a new vessel can completely change a piece.
- Avoid buying something simply because it is on sale.
- If you are unsure, take a photo and walk away. You can come back if it still feels right.

Before You Check Out

- Does this fit my room's style and color palette?

- Do I know exactly where I will use it?
- Am I buying this because the room needs it - or because I simply found it?
- Could something I already own serve the same purpose?
- Is this worth using part of my decorating budget?

Simply Gracious Reminder

A beautiful home is not created by how much you spend. It is created one thoughtful decision at a time. Buy less, choose well, and leave room for your home to evolve.

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