





# WAYS TO REINVENT YOUR HOME

DISCOVER THE SECRETS OF TOP DECORATING EXPERTS FOR A QUICK AND EASY HOME MAKEOVER.



**Y**ou don't have to spend a fortune or have your home completely renovated to update its overall look. Whether it's simple new lighting in the lounge room or new tap fixtures in the bathroom, smart product selection and a basic knowledge of what works in a room can make all the difference.

*Smart Living* spoke to three top home decorating experts to uncover their trade secrets.

## 1. Use soft furnishings

Michael Witty, director of Interior Designers Australia, says using soft furnishings such as cushions, throws and rugs is a dramatic yet inexpensive way to re-invent a tired-looking lounge room.

"With trends in colour and looks changing so often, replacing soft furnishings can help completely change the look of a room and alter its mood," he says. "It's also a way of changing the mood between seasons and can be relatively inexpensive. There are some great cushions around which are textured, unusual and dramatic."

## 2. Re-arrange furniture

Heather McNeill, of In Vogue Interiors at Mona Vale in Sydney's northern beaches, believes you can lift a room by simply moving around your existing furniture.

"Moving your furniture around will not cost you any money, so instead consider spending a little on a consultation with a stylist to help you place your existing furniture," she says. "You may find you actually save money by not buying items that may not work in your room. Another thing that ties in with this is to completely de-clutter your room. You can hide messy paperwork and other items altogether, or consider some sensible storage ideas."

## 3. Lighting

Michael Witty says lighting can be used in different rooms to create specific moods.

"Using several lamps rather than one light bulb in a lounge room or living room, for example, can help to completely alter the mood of the room," he says. "Lighting is easy to change and is not difficult to have