

Before purchasing furniture, pinpoint your wants and needs

Shop before you buy is good advice, especially when a major purchase is involved. Expeditions to furniture retail floors reveal an extraordinary variety of products in all price ranges available for the home environment.

This variety presents so many options, you may become confused and unsure of what you want. Or, you may have been disappointed with a previous selection that did not serve you well.

To avoid confusion now and disappointment later, take time to plan your purchases. Whether furnishing an entire home or choosing a piece or two, the most pleasing results start with a plan.

Spontaneity important

Spontaneity has a place in

*A rose
a day
will keep
the blues
away*

April showers bring May flowers—but what do you do in the meantime?

One sure cure for the lingering winter blues (and the spring home fix-up/clean-up blahs) is fresh florist roses. Nothing quite perks up the spirits like a few colorful roses arranged in large and small containers all over the house.

For spring cheer

America's professional rose growers offer this list of ingredients in their special recipe for spring cheer:

1. Float a single fully opened rose in a small glass dish, champagne glass or brandy snifter in the den.
2. Wake up to the scent of springtime with two or three roses in a bud vase on the bedroom nightstand or the powder room vanity.
3. Whistle while you work with three or four roses in your favorite mug or pitcher on the kitchen counter.
4. Enjoy the grace and gentility of five or six roses in simple vases, placed on cocktail tables or in the entry hallway.
5. Dine in elegance with a traditional centerpiece of roses.

Whether your rosy recipe calls for a single perfect bloom or a dozen or more, here are some tips on how to make your roses last.

Begin with the best ingredients. Ask your florist for American-grown roses, to be sure they're fresh.

Upon arriving home

As soon as you get them home, cut about an inch off each rose stem and place immediately in barely warm water. Add a floral preservative, keep out of direct sun or drafts, and add water daily.

DECLINE IN RENTAL UNITS TO CONTINUE

The decline in rental units is expected to continue in the 1980s, according to economist, Michael Sumichrist.

Sumichrist says the continual decline will be due to a population that still favors home ownership over renting, and a trend towards condominium conversions and cooperatives.

decorating, but major furniture purchases should be chosen with care so you get maximum return on your investment in the form of more attractive surroundings, increased comfort and greater function.

You enjoy rooms that are a source of personal satisfaction, and furniture that provides the storage, display, work areas or chairside convenience you especially need.

Develop floor plan

To develop a plan, use pencil, paper and a tape measure to draw a scaled floor plan of the room, including doors, win-

dows, heating and electrical outlets as well as unusual architectural features.

Simple scaled drawings of the furniture you intend to keep can be cut out and moved around on your floor plan as you consider possible room arrangements.

Keep in mind factors such as a fireplace or window view you might want as a focal point, existing colors and patterns of carpeting, draperies or other upholstered pieces you'll continue using.

Think about the room's orientation. A dark room with cold northern exposure calls for warm, light colors and cheerful

patterns. A sunny room facing south or west is more inviting in cool colors and subdued patterns.

As you work, you'll begin to see how much space is available for that new sofa, whether an outlet will be near the new end table, and what colors and patterns will be best in an overall decorating plan.

"Wants" and "needs"

Then, compile two lists, one your "Wants," and the other your "Needs." Choices are quickly narrowed when wants and needs coincide, such as more open shelves for books

and collectibles.

However, what if you always wanted a graceful French settee but need furniture that can withstand the wear of active children and pets?

A formal style covered in damask would be fine in a room used primarily by adults, but a hardy Country French settee covered in a rugged fabric treated to resist spills and soils will suit you better.

One advantage of the great variety of furniture available is that it helps you match up your wants, needs and budget. Planning is the key.

A good plan is important for any area of the home—bedroom, dining area, hall, den, children's room.

Always remember how you live and what you expect from your furniture in the way of performance. Do you want it to last a lifetime or do you plan to replace this furniture in a few years?

Take your floor plan and lists with you when you shop. Refer to them frequently. Ask questions. Find out what might be available through catalogs.

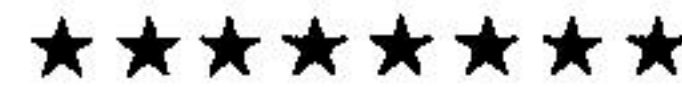
Keep looking until you find the furniture that will suit you and your home to a "T."



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