

Embrace the power of light

Natural light can make one of the biggest impacts in a room and is available at a fraction of the cost of other powerful room accents – in fact, it's free. While the addition of natural light is a positive element, there is often the challenge of not only bringing daylight into the home, but controlling it so that

it is put to best use and does not result in glare, heat gain, UV damage to furnishings and lost energy savings opportunities.

Sue Rainville, director of marketing for Hunter Douglas, Canada's leading manufacturer of custom window fashions, offers the following tips on how to best harvest natural

light in your home:

The Right Amount

Proper harvesting of light involves enhancing and controlling the light a room receives at different times of day. Select window fashions like Silhouette window shadings with sheer fabric and layers that diffuse sunlight as it enters a room to create a softened lighting effect across the space. Silhouette shadings also have fabric vanes that allow you to direct the light to the walls and ceilings to help it penetrate deeper into the room.

The Power of Combination

Integrate natural light with other systems in your home – including media, security and electric lighting systems – for maximized energy-savings potential.

Rising Above

Daylight should enter the space from as high a point as possible. Products with the top-down/bottom-up design from Hunter Douglas have the option of opening from the top and stacking at the bottom, thus allowing light to stream into a room from the top of the window, effectively lighting the room without electricity. This option is available on Duette honeycomb shades, Silhouette window shadings, Vignette Modern Roman Shades and



other Hunter Douglas offerings.

Dim Light

Use dimmers on electric lights to maximize natural light illumination and reduce the use of artificial light. Additionally use insulating window fashions that can cut cooling costs by shading rooms from the hot noonday sun.

More information is available online at www.hunterdouglas.ca or toll-free at 1-800-265-8000.

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In today's real estate market, being the nicest house on the block doesn't necessarily mean a house will sell quickly; however, reducing the number of unknowns about the home is certain to help get the listed price without all the hassles. One of the ways a seller can ensure a smooth transaction is to have the home inspected before you list – a pre-listing inspection.

In the current buyer's market, a home listed with an inspection already completed

is ideal; the current condition of the home is revealed, so there are no surprises when the house goes to closing. It's a win-win situation as the homebuyer knows the condition of the home before making an offer and in some cases, it gives the home seller an idea of the condition of the house they're selling and gives them a chance to fix what's wrong or disclose the condition and price accordingly. A pre-listing inspection

done by a professional home inspector is a thorough, in-depth visual examination of the structure and operating systems of the home. It includes items such as roofing, chimneys, gutters and downspouts, siding and trim, attics, plumbing, electrical, heating, interior rooms and the condition of the basement and crawl space.

More information on pre-listing inspections is available online at www.amerispec.ca.

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