

# Warm & Cosy

## Decorating Ideas

The days are short and there's a real nip in the air. Winter is well and truly here and it's time to dress the house for the colder climate. After a long day, it's nice to come home to a warm and cosy house. Your home should be warm and welcoming from arrival at the front door, begging you and your visitors to come inside.

One of the easiest and quickest ways to add warmth is to introduce soft, fluffy textures in warm colours. In the living room, change the cushion covers to darker colours and add a throw for snuggling under while watching television or reading. Realign furniture to face the fireplace, if you have one. Change around your ornaments bringing out a mixture of old and new items, which will give a unique, individual environment and provide memories from other times.

Create a reading nook. Set a comfortable chair near a window to catch the winter sun and add a standard lamp for the evening. Pile some books you've been intending to read on a table close at hand. Add a scented candle or oil burner for sensory décor as well. Turn off the harsh overhead lights and turn on the lamps. Add some more if you haven't got enough. Think of the ambience in a hotel room, they tend to have a lamp in every corner and it is certainly cosier than bright lights blazing. Use bulbs with warm soft tones.

Purchase new towels for the bathroom. Ones with a luxurious feel in warm colours to add to the atmosphere. Drawing the blinds or curtains will keep out the winter chill and encourage a feeling of intimacy. Light the fire, grab a hot chocolate, sit back and relax.

**By Jennifer French:**  
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### Stay warm and cosy with these great throw, rug and cosy corner ideas.

#### Feel warmed by being Bronzed

Homewares in earthy bronze tones instantly create warmth.

- > Mantel clock \$69.95
- > Madras Laser bronze cushion \$42.95
- > Madras linen "Flame" cushion \$35.95
- > Bronze lamp base \$29
- > Lamp shade in linen finish \$119

Available at Sorrento



#### Latte moments

The colour of an espresso coffee and the idea of a cosy fire are invoked by these earthy golden tones.

- > Mokoto "anthracite" cushion \$79.95
- > Ofelia square cushion in latte \$79.95

Available at Sheridan

> Faux fur throw in Latte \$72.95

Available at Sorrento



#### Take the Royal treatment

Treat yourself like a queen and wrap yourself in these luxurious pure wool rugs and throws.

- > Adorabella Shetland Wool - "Royal" wool rug 145cm x 145cm \$392.50
- > Adorabella Shetland Wool - "Royal" cushion \$124

Available at Twig & Twine

- > St Albans pure mohair knee rug in "Horizon Blue" \$87.95

Available at Hedera



#### Rich colours add warmth

Knits in luxurious colours add instant warmth to any room.

- > Lucian floor cushion in "Gracilite" \$79.95
- > Lucian knitted throw in "Cherry" \$179.95
- > Mokoto rug in "Eclipses" \$199.98

All Available at Sheridan



#### Soups, broths and casseroles

These are the tastes and aromas we love for winter – cook up a storm with expert help and guidance from the Red Pepper.

- > Renneroff German clay cooking pots.
- > Great for winter cooking \$85.95
- > Christopher Vine soup bowls and ramekins

Available at the Red Pepper

#### Get all fired up

Make the perfect open fire this winter with stylish tools and accessories.

- > Fireplace tool set \$21
- > Wrought iron fireplace screen \$273

Available at Twig & Twine



#### Get dressed for the occasion

Pretty in pink. Slipping hot chocolate by a fire was never as cosy as this!

- > Fawter and pink PJ's set \$33.95
- > Hot water bottle in shell pink \$29.95
- > Winter knitted boots in cradle pink \$19.95
- > Slipper boots in pewter leopard faux fur \$29.95
- > Luxurious toweling velour robe \$79.95

Available at Sussan



#### A – Z of Stores Featured

Bed Bath n Table	Ph 9983 1911
Hedera	Ph 9983 0883
Sheridan	Ph 9144 5316
Sorrento	Ph 9144 1799
Sussan	Ph 9144 7814
Twig & Twine	Ph 8084 1095
Red Pepper	Ph 9144 7813

#### WIN!

Win one of two \$200 Homewares vouchers. See page 35 for entry details.

## Organization – Keeping order when you can't escape outdoors



We simply couldn't escape to the outdoors for the drizzle and freezing temperatures. We became masters of the indoor activity and looking back I can't help but think of the good memories: a warm fire, crumpets, the delicious warm casseroles, roast dinners, a game of monopoly and a puzzle always on the go. But how do you keep a family happy and a home in good order when you can't escape to the great outdoors?

Happy families have a robust structure and routine – it sounds boring doesn't it, but if you throw demands and orders at children that unsettle the rhythm of their day they don't respond positively for the most part. Implement structure and

routine and encourage the children to do what is required of them both morning and afternoon. Write a list for each child to follow and even if they can't read, it helps you keep them focused. But remember follow your structure consistently and lead by example as you partner your children through their jobs. Over time they will know what to do without you even asking – bliss!

Have a brainstorm session with the family about all the activities you can do inside. Create a master list of these activities for that much needed inspiration for a wet cold afternoon. Encourage the family to look at this list when they say those awful words "I'm bored". Think about board games, models to make, puzzles, lego and of course books.

Think about how everyone is able to contribute to the running of the house – draw up a jobs list that is age appropriate eg. helping make lunches for school, laying the table for meals, getting the drinks, putting toys away in the playroom and putting out the rubbish. But remember this is not going to work unless you follow through and coach them how to do the job in the first place.

Winter can also be a great time to get in the kitchen with the family and create. Focus on the benefits of family meal time and involve the children in the preparation. It doesn't matter what the mushrooms look like when they go in the spaghetti bolognese, but children love to help and learn. Bake cakes

and cookies with the children and give them the bowl to lick! You could even turn your meal into the activity for the afternoon – not only is it fun but you are also coaching your children with valuable life skills.

Finally when it's all too much and you need some fresh air, put the coast in the oven, or the slow cooker on, get the gumboots and raincoats on and go for a bush walk and embrace the change of seasons!

My top five tips for keeping order when you can't escape outdoors:

1. Implement a robust structure and routine for the family.
2. Brainstorm all the activities you can do and have a master list for inspiration.
3. Involve the family in jobs to do for the house.
4. Involve the family in cooking activities – bring back that weekend roast.
5. Buy all the family some gum boots and a raincoat and go for a walk come what may.

**Need help implementing a robust structure and routine? Contact Charlie Chapman from the Organised Family.**

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