

# 4 tips for homemaking on a budget

Buying your first or even your most recent home can bring up a lot of challenges. After spending money on the fees and all the other costs involved finding the money and the inspiration to make it feel like home can feel daunting. We've looked at what some of tips Dulux design experts have for making your new house your home.

## 1: Start with a blank canvas



'I always advise that when you move into a new place, start by painting the space white or an off-white neutral to begin with. You can then introduce colour gradually as you begin to get a feel for how you use the different spaces, how the light changes and which rooms you spend the most time in – especially at certain times of the day.' Advises Rebecca Williamson, Dulux's Senior Colour, Design and Content Manager. If you are not keen on the idea of brilliant white or magnolia then here at Ruthin Décor we can create your own light neutral colour in a cost effective way, just ask about our tinting services.

## 2: Put up a good front

Saving up for your dream kitchen but can't wait that long? Take a shortcut by swapping cabinet handles, pulls and painting cupboard doors – you'd be surprised at what a difference it can make to the overall look and feel of your space. Painting just the cupboard doors can be done with cupboard makeover paint, or prime the doors with a good quality water-based primer-undercoat and use any satin, eggshell or gloss paint to give the final finish. Ask us at Ruthin décor about the best brushes to do the job and avoid brush marks.



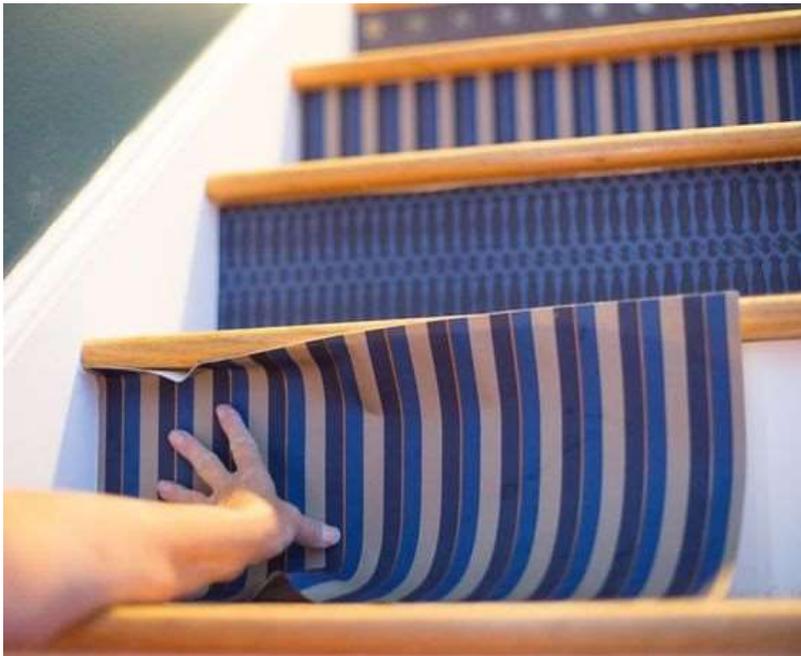
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## 3: Don't skip on planning



Working out how a new piece of furniture will sit in your space can be hard to visualise, but it's essential you measure up and plan properly before you put your order in so you can avoid the disappointing event of not being able to get your sofa through the door. Once you've found *the one*, a simple way to check your new sofa will work beautifully in your room is to take down its dimensions and mock up its footprint. Use old newspaper and masking tape to make the footprint, then you can move it around the room to find the best spot for it. Don't forget to measure doors and angles of doorways too! This is also a good tip for other larger items of furniture and can be used to check how imposing a light fitting will be.

## 4: Take to the floor



If you've inherited a worn out carpet or two in your new home, you'll be looking for an alternative to replace it at the first opportunity, no doubt. While you work out your options and colour schemes, you'll need something cushioning under foot, so invest in a large rug. Whether you opt for floorboards or carpet in the end, the beauty of a rug is that you can use it to reinvent the look and feel of your space whenever you feel like a change in the future. If you really can't live with the carpet on the stairs painting the stairs treads one colour and stencilling a design on the riser or wallpapering the riser will create a designer look with only a small budget.

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