

Revamp Your Family Room

After the kitchen, the family room is the most popular gathering spot. It is the place to study/work, play, watch movies and talk. Revamp yours to make sure this room has everything your family needs to be comfortable.

Display personal treasures

Kids grow up so quickly. Incorporate heirlooms and memories into your family room. Frame love letters from great-grandparents or finger paint masterpieces. A vintage couch or chair can be reupholstered with kid-friendly fabrics. One such selection is leather. The elegant yet casual material is easy to clean and only needs a conditioning treatment once a year. This allows the space to be welcoming for kids and adults. Wool blends are also durable and less prone to snagging than other fabrics. Put the love for all things family on display with a gallery wall that features every generation. Another option is to turn a favorite family photo into wall art. For families that love to travel, a large map can teach geography and family history. Have kids pin where they have been or where other members of the family have journeyed or lived.

Make use of space

Built-ins are the perfect way to make a family room accommodate the needs of every household member. They harness the power of vertical space and can give everyone a shelf of their own. Decide between open and closed options to display or store books, electronics and pet toys. Paint these space savers in neutral or statement hues, such as kelly green or peacock. Ottomans and oversized poufs can also pull double duty as coffee tables if you use a tray to hold glass and other breakable/fragile objects, or choose ones that provide storage. These versatile pieces are perfect for homeowners wanting to add a dose of stylish comfort.

Change it up

Family rooms are more informal than living rooms. They are also the perfect space to play around with seating. The traditional sectional can be complemented by bean bags, ceiling-mounted swings and bubble chairs. Replace pendant lights or lamps with geometric light fixtures. Consider lanterns for farmhouse-inspired looks or chandeliers for a touch of glamour. Abstract patterns can add creativity to a family room. Roll out an abstract rug to add dimension and creativity while anchoring a room. Pull together the hues and unify the family room with accent pillows. Try to go beyond red, yellow and blue to make this newly revamped space pop with color. Explore tangerines, corals and metallics.

Create focal points

It is time for the television to cease being the star of the family room. Hang an oversized art piece on the main wall. Invite a stunning sculpture to take center stage. Shop vintage stores for showstopping textiles to transform throw pillows, seat coverings and tapestries into statement pieces. Avoid too many straight lines by purchasing curvy furniture or tree root end tables. Invite loved ones and guests to look up with painted ceilings to round out a room's appeal.

These tips were inspired by the May 1962 issue of Better Homes & Gardens magazine.