



PILLOW POWER

Hard to believe that a small thing like a pillow can have such an impact, but it's true. Adding throw pillows to a room is an easy way to pull it together and give the room a "finished," well thought out, look. Here are some tips to get you thinking about how to successfully add throw pillows to your own home.

THREE: A MAGIC NUMBER

As with all good design, your space should reflect the personality of its occupants. Strategically adding a few pillows can be your secret weapon. Generally you'll want an odd number that have one unifying aspect, like color. Three is a good rule of thumb...three pillows, three different patterns, with one pattern taking the lead as the most prominent and containing three colors, at least one of which is used elsewhere in the room. The other two pillows will each pick up one of the lesser two colors. You might try one floral, one geometric and one solid color. Or how about mixing a plaid with a print or stripe? The use of color will tie them together for a sophisticated, not messy, look.

TEXTURE: A SECRET INGREDIENT

Avoid matching pillows, which can seem dull, unless you're going for all subtle neutrals, in which case you can use different textures. Combine a smooth knit pillow with another covered in a slub woven fabric or even mohair or wool. Add more interest with tassels or other decorative trim and varying pillow shapes.

NOW WHAT?

You've selected your pillows, now how to display them for maximum décor punch? Take a deep breath and experiment! Try layering the pillows, with the largest at the back. If you're arranging pillows on a large sectional, place a large one in a corner, then two or three smaller grouped together on one side. If you've tried a few different arrangements and you're not satisfied with the look, add a few more pillows and mix it up. Some rules are made to be broken!



Joanne Turner & Marty McDewitt