



Classic Interior SOLUTIONS

Should I Buy New?

by Gayle Giles

It depends on the style and condition of your existing furniture. If you are planning to make a style change, buying new pieces of furniture might be the only way to accomplish the new look. If on the other hand, the furniture you own is in good condition and you are looking for a face-lift then paint, fabric and accessories go a long way to create the new design.

Upholstered furniture is usually the first to see signs of wear and tear. If you have invested in quality construction, it might make sense to reupholster or slipcover the piece. Look for eight way hand tie springs, double dowel joinery and a kiln dried hardwood frame. If you are not sure about the construction, ask your designer or an upholsterer to look at the piece and give you an opinion. If the construction is good, I recommend you spend your dollars on exceptional fabric. By reupholstering furniture, you are practicing green design, an environmentally friendly approach to design solutions.

If you choose to buy new, there are limitless styles and fabrics to choose. This approach can be somewhat easier than trying to work existing pieces into a totally new look. For example, if you currently have French country décor and are looking to go retro you will definitely have to start from scratch. Consider donating your old furnishings to a local charity.

Buying new furniture and accessories isn't always the only solution. You might consider buying antiques and collectibles or to incorporate family

heirlooms into your new style. In this case, you are buying a piece of history. Purchasing antiques and collectibles is not for everyone but they can personalize and add character to a room. Designers and decorators use antiques and collectibles for that one of a kind look.

If you are interested in collecting antiques and your budget is limited, start collecting china, ceramics or pottery such as ironstone, flow blue or Depression glass. Look for small collectibles when you're vacationing. Paintings are another good way to define a style you can call your own.

Hunting for that special antique or collectible can be time consuming. Don't be in a hurry. Enjoy the search. Once you find that special piece, your story of your search becomes great conversation when guests admire the new room.

Designers and decorators use a combination of new and old furnishings and accessories to create a very personal space with interest and character. The fun is the process, enjoy the journey.

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