

Discount decorating

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RECOVERING A living room couch requires a substantial investment. Instead, do a couch makeover using pillows and a durable throw.

The biggest problem with putting a single piece of fabric over a tired couch or chair is that the unshaped material tends to move around.

Look for a synthetic throw backed with a non-slip fabric to minimize movement. Machine-washable, 90-by-70-inch throws for chairs and 140-by-

70-inch throws for sofas are less than \$30.

Another living room essential one usually needs in quantity: lamps for warm light and reading comfort. Lamps and shades tend to be costly, but great-looking lamps can be found for less than \$20.

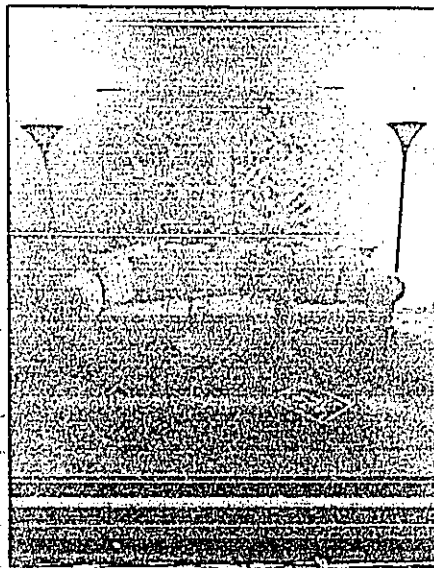
Choose midsize table lamps with a clear glass base, pleated fabric shade and three-way light or Oriental-feel, ceramic-base lamps in clay, gray or green with a trim, triangular shade.

TRY SMALL LAMPS perfect for bedside tables in neutrals and pastels or similarly priced earth-tone lamps with honey calico shades.

The wide selection of lampshades at certain five-and-dime stores make dragging shadeless lamps with you a worthwhile headache.

Lampshades should conceal all of the lamp hardware, including the socket for the light bulb and switch.

If you're not certain what style or size shade is best, try several on for size. Shades come in all sizes, colors and fabrics.



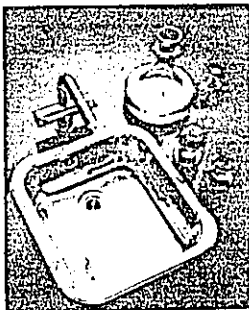
Hand-painted fabric, if in perfect condition, is expensive. But these pillow covers were made from less-than-perfect hand-painted fabric for this living room in a model home in a Farmington Hills subdivision by interior designer Joanne Doyle. The flawed side was turned towards the couch — and no one's the wiser, but the effect is elegant.

RANDY BORST/retail photographer

Credits

THIS Home and Garden special section appearing today in all 12 Observer & Eccentric Newspapers was coordinated by Marie McGee, special sections editor, with Dave Snyder and Dave Baker as advertising coordinators. The cover was done by Glenna Merrill, creative services supervisor. Questions should be directed to McGee at 591-2300, Ext. 313.

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