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where floral window treatments over a sink distract the eye from the mundane and direct it to the outdoors.

Mirrors elsewhere in the bathroom work to draw in extra light and enlarge the space. "The use of mirrors makes so much of a difference in a small space," she said. Stoddard later showed a kitchen where mirror panels on refrigerator doors draw in light from the other side of the room, demonstrating that the reflective material often works well in less obvious places.

Color your mood

Of course Stoddard also emphasized the effect of color on mood. Shades of blue, for instance, bring solace and comfort, she said. "Blue is good for bedrooms. It's very soothing, calming and restorative."

But don't fear working with less pragmatic shades, including white, she said. "I love a white background. Let

your fabrics show the dirt. Don't be practical. How about pink in the kitchen?"

In a slide showing singer and dancer Sandy Duncan's New York penthouse kitchen, soft watermelon walls brighten up the eating space.

In addition to the importance of color in interior design, Stoddard urged listeners to incorporate their favorite objects and personal effects into living spaces.

"It makes a huge difference," she said, showing several examples of her own rooms, including a closet chock-full of beautiful wrapping paper and spools of colorful ribbons.

"An inanimate object becomes animate when we love it," Stoddard quoted her mentor Eleanor McMillen Brown of the design firm McMillen Inc. in New York.

"We will never be alone or lonely, when we have a space we have created and for ourselves."

Grab dust with a plan, micro fiber tools

Q: How do I get rid of dust and how often do I need to dust?

A: It will be a continual challenge, but not an impossible task to rid your house of dust. Every-



DIANA KOENIG

thing in your house either attracts dust or causes dust. You need to schedule a consistent dusting time and use the right tools to conquer those dust bunnies. Plan to dust once a week. Some areas will need dusting every week and you will be able to quickly identify these areas, which include the top of furniture. Other areas such as baseboards, under furniture, ceiling fans, vents, and high shelves can be dusted monthly or several times a year. You will need a written or mental plan to

remember what you need to dust.

Dust can accumulate anywhere including in your carpet. Look at the carpet area next to the baseboard. This area will accumulate dust bunnies if you do not use a narrow attachment on your vacuum cleaner to suction the dust.

You need to grab the dust before it settles on your furniture. There are many places in your house that are dust culprits. You need to attack these areas first before the dust spreads throughout your house. Make sure you regularly clean the following: Dryer lint screen, window screens, window ledges, the furnace filter, return air vents, and heating/cooling vents. Check for any openings along your dryer vent where lint could escape. Change your vacuum bag regularly before it is completely full.

Some furniture shows more dust than others, such as dark furniture and glass tops. You will need to dust these more often than the lighter wood tops. Items such as: Knickknacks, painted

lamp shades, frames, silk plants are dust collectors and will require more time dusting. Minimize the number of items you have displayed on furniture so you can dust quickly. Use decorative dresser scarves on some furniture and you will not need to dust as often.

You need the right tools to conquer dust bunnies. You can avoid chemicals and grab dust by using a micro fiber cloth of lambwool. Extended lambwool dusters reach high areas like ceiling fans, return air vents, and ceilings. A micro fiber floor duster works well at grabbing dirt and dust on wood floors, linoleum, and ceramic tile.

You need to dust the following items in each room:

Furniture (include front, back and sides); Bed frame; Blinds or shades; Curtains; Lamp; Decorative items; Baseboards; Doors; Window ledges; Walls and ceilings, especially the corners, where dust collects faster; Ceiling fans; Light switches and outlets; Books on bookshelves; Electronics such as the television and computer.

Today's Refrigerator Bulletin: "Dust Bunnies be gone!" Diana Koenig (Domestic Planner) Diana Koenig is a writer, educator, speaker and consultant. Send your questions and success stories to: Diana Koenig, P.O. Box 1702, Manchester, Mo, 63011, e-mail: dianakoenig@hotmail.com. Visit www.domesticplanner.com.

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