

SAVVY SHOPPER



The Wonders of White

No longer a post-Labor Day faux pas, white makes any interior design scheme trendy yet timeless

BY CARLY SCHOLL

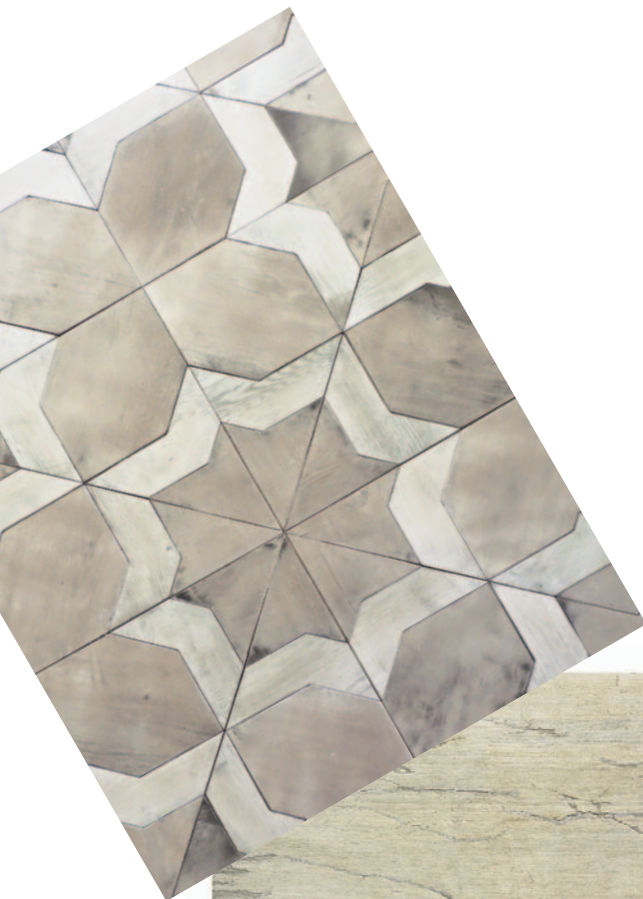
The clean simplicity inherent in the color white is perfect for upgrading, updating and unifying home decor. The trick is knowing how to layer shades, textures and patterns to achieve a design that is interesting to the eye and rich in personal expression. Whether you're drawn to timeless ivories, pastoral creams or the look of weather-worn washes, your home will come alive when foundations, surfaces and furnishings are decked in dreamy white hues.

A FRESH CANVAS

Thanks to innovative materials and artistic patterns, walls and floors can be so much more than just the structural support of the home. "White is a constant in design because it's both modern and classic. It just has this effortless way of simplifying everything it touches," says Mike Tuttle, founder of Indianapolis-based design house Inhabit Living. "The trend now is pairing tints of white with different textures, playing matte and glossy finishes

Sweet and chic, a floral wallcovering brings dimension to classic white decor. \$70/roll. (yorkwall.com)

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Engineered European white oak arranged in a parquet is ideal for subtly sophisticated flooring. Price upon request. (tabarkastudio.com) ■ Kaleidoscopic cast concrete tiles make a bold textural statement in gleaming white. \$16-\$154 (inhabitoliving.com) ■ Muted neutrals and organic design blend harmoniously in the Desert Oasis silk rug. \$10,600-\$26,300 (davideadler.com)



off each other, subtly shifting tonal value and overlaying or washing a soft, neutral hue onto other materials such as brick." Foundations provide the clean slate for furnishings and designs to shine, so get creative when outfitting them in variations of trendworthy white.

When choosing flooring, it is crucial to consider how colors and textures interact with furniture, complement walls and highlight focal points. Let your home's architecture be an inspiration for the type of material you choose. Distressed white concrete provides a smooth, sleek surface in industrial-style houses, while sophisticated granite feels right at home in a contemporary setting. Ranch or Craftsman homes look lovely outfitted in pickled or bleached wooden floors. "The texture, graining and imperfections of blonde or bleached wood bring a relaxed, natural elegance into a space," says Meir Zenati, creative director of Tabarka Studio, makers of handcrafted tile, wood and stone designs in Scottsdale. "This return to organic beauty elevates decor and is both ahead of trend and timeless in application."

Think outside the paint can when it comes to updating the walls of your home with bold choices in materials and patterns as opposed to simply rolling on a blasé coat of white lacquer. Create a statement wall with a mural-like display of modern tiles, or pick out a wallpaper that highlights your personality and brings interest to a room. When rooms are

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Simple yet luxurious, quartz compound in White Zeus Extreme feels serene in sleek-style bathroom spaces. \$49-\$110/square foot. (silestoneusa.com)

clad in shades of eggshell, glacier and other subtly distinctive whites, light reflects beautifully, which eliminates the need for excess lamps, sconces and chandeliers and allows the low-key palette and uncluttered design to be the star.

CRAZY FOR QUARTZ

White can be used throughout a home to create serenity in spaces with the most activity. Kitchens and bathrooms benefit greatly from surfaces finished with an unexpected material in crisp snowy hues. Ever-versatile and extremely durable quartz, which matches utility with glamour, is particularly trending now in the design world.

“With the current shift toward using white as a simple, basic neutral, people are looking for ways to incorporate the color in their furniture, walls, countertops, backsplashes and more,” says Adria Harrison, director of marketing at Arizona Tile, a nationwide surface and stone distributor. “Quartz offers a combination of stunning beauty and low-maintenance requirements, making it a preferred surface for many.” A blend of natural quartz and polymers creates glistening counters and islands that instantly brighten up a kitchen’s work spaces.

Similarly, streamlined quartz looks stunningly fresh in any bathroom, and its chip- and stain-



resistant virtues make it an ideal surface for busy areas. A smooth built-in sink, quartz-tiled shower or simple linear shelving lends a spa-like quality to the space and can be customized to your liking. “From slabs that are more consistent with little to no variation or veining, to slabs that resemble marble, there is a white quartz option for everyone,” says Harrison.

Seashell-dappled quartz is a one-of-a-kind material for kitchen counters in need of modernizing. \$17-\$24/square foot (arizonatile.com)

FRESH FURNISHINGS

A white color scheme provides a neutral backdrop for nearly all furnishings. However, rather than using small decor items such as vases, picture frames and hardware to carry this trend, stick to decorating with larger pieces in pale neutral tones. This will ensure that the white wow factor isn't lost in competing design.

If you're not quite committed to overhauling your home's existing floors, opt for lush area rugs in mottled grey and white tints to give off a similar ethereal quality in a space. "In recent years, the taste for abstract rug design with muted, low-contrast color has gained a widespread following among designers," says David E. Adler, founder of David E. Adler Fine Rugs in Scottsdale. "These designs subordinate to other elements and subtly impart a mostly monochromatic color to an interior." A silver-flecked cowhide or hand-knotted silk rug will invigorate existing decor with a healthy dose of stylishness while also allowing you the option of changing the look of your floors with the simple switch of a rug.

For living rooms, bedrooms and other high-traffic areas, choose statement pieces in varying textures and whitish hues to ensure that monochromatic doesn't become monosyllabic in presentation. "White has many simple truths that make it the perfect color to express your sense of style," says Laura White, brand management director of furniture manufacturer Caracole. "It not only freshens interiors but also perfectly offsets bolder furnishings that energize the room." Mix a sheepskin ottoman with a wingback chair upholstered in albino alligator print for an edgy atmosphere, or place Lucite acrylic chairs around a marble dining table to achieve an ultramodern look. Pair-



ing various materials and layering complementary tints of white creates an elegant, modern palette that keeps the eye both interested and at ease.

Washing your home in white can be employed in infinite ways and adapted to suit your personality and lifestyle. Whether you're inspired to undergo a major renovation of the foundations, surfaces and furniture in your home to reflect the fresh vibes of all-white-everything, or you want to confine the look to just one room, rest assured your abode will be white-hot with style. ■

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: For a stunning statement piece, opt for a bronzed metal chest outfitted in ethereal faux white agate. \$3,589 (caracole.com/home) ■ Inspired by a silver Navajo bracelet from the 19th century, this distinguished alabaster lamp will illuminate your home with style. \$885 (ladlows.com) ■ A stately chair embossed in pearly faux crocodile is elegant and on-trend. \$5,640 (ladlows.com)

See Sources.

