

ACCESSORIES TO KEEP; ACCESSORIES TO TOSS CHECKLIST

...(WHAT TO STORE AWAY)



THE INTERIOR DESIGN ADVOCATE
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Home décor accessories are not just the important jewelry in a room. The objects of beauty, along with their careful and strategic combinations and styling, are literally the finishing layer of a space. These objects and their curated combinations are what professional designers know will give ANY room its charm, its panache, its mood and its magic. In this checklist, I share my quick tips to help you edit your accessory collection so you have the right building blocks to make beautiful things happen!

KEEP

- Large Items: 12" or bigger since most Design Lovers fall short on these.
- Mid-Size Items: 8" - 11" since most Design Lovers fall short on these too.
- Footed Bowls: Great, classic shape that "plays well" with others.
- Metal Sculpture: Always a great additional texture.
- Trays: A grrrreat building block with other accessories layered on top.
- Decorative Pillows: IN GOOD CONDITION ONLY!
- Plate Stands: Can transform a platter, plate or dish into a beautifully displayed "objet d'art"!
- Decorative Boxes: Provides good visual weight and a place to hide the remote.
- 3 - 5 Favorite framed photos (displayed on a table top surface), and in coordinated frames.
- Good Looking Wall Art: better still.... large items.
- A framed photo of a happy time in your life...hopefully one in which you look great too!
- Healthy looking plants, but not more than 2 in a room.
- Large healthy-looking FLOOR plant in a handsome container; total height with both 4' - 7'.

TOSS

- Itty-bitty-doo-dads: 4" tall or less; they look like clutter and are impossible to style-out.
- Scraggly looking, leggy looking plants.
- Dried flowers and wreaths: Unless using for holiday décor...otherwise pack it AWAY!
- Fake plants & flowers: Unless you run a hotel...and even then...
- All the "mistakes" you've bought at HomeGoods that seemed like a good idea at the time.
- Tattered, flattened or faded decorative pillows.
- Small framed photos hung on a wall: Either put into a table top frame or a full photo-wall display.
- Your husband's décor accessories: Just kidding! (I'm kidding...I'm kidding. Hmm. AM I kidding?).
- Accessories you bought 30 years ago...or for your first apartment: Time to update and trade up.
- Accessories you've inherited but never liked: If you think they're ugly, they probably are.
- Soft Cover Books: Never a good-looking display item.
- Hard Cover Book Jackets if displaying on a shelf/bookcase: Designers always remove these. OK to keep these if displayed on a coffee table.
- Magazines: Read and pass them on – not a display item
- All the flea market finds you "never found a home for" in your home.
- NOTE: Many of the items in this section can also be donated to worthy causes, sold on Ebay or moved into the next check list section called "Store Away."

STORE AWAY

- Every kitchen utensil you own: functional but not pretty.
- Memorabilia: beautiful memories, but not pretty to look at.
- Entire collections of "sssstuff": Display a few fav items and store the rest. (Rotate if you must!)
- Every framed photo you own: As noted display 3 - 5 favs on a table top, or get a digital frame.
- Personal Care Items: Functional but not pretty.
- All of those "Best Mom, Best Teacher, Best Aunt, Friends Forever" Mugs and Plaques.
- Small Appliances: functional but not pretty.
- Costume Jewelry: beautiful on you, not in a room.

Naturally, you can store away anything on the “toss” list if it has great sentimental value...but let me add this: There is thinking in PARTS of the design community that lots of that “stored stuff” we hold onto is really old, dead energy. Further, that when we get rid of that “old energy”, we make room for new things to take root in our lives.

If that’s too airy-fairy for you (hey...I get it...) then try this: Before you cram your drawers and closets with more stuff, answer these 3 questions:

1. Have I needed this “thing” in the last 2 years?
2. If I were to move tomorrow, would I pack this and take it with me?
3. Would I pay good money for this item today?

If the answer to all 3 questions isn’t a resounding “Heck yeah!”, well then my lovely, you know it’s something you’re ready to let go of. Make room for new beauty in your life. Use wise strategy to get there...and watch beautiful things start to happen in your life and your home!

Xo!

Donna