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## Furnishing your first home on a budget



We've asked **Suna Interior Design**, to help provide some **top tips** for **first time** buyers to furnish their home **without breaking the bank**:

As a first time buyer, owning your own home is exciting, but it can also be a little daunting, especially when it comes to having to shellout for furniture after you've just made the biggest investment of your life. However, it doesn't need to be as hair-raising as it may first appear. Here are a few tips on how to furnish your first home on a budget.



### Get creative

Consider upcycling or recycling items of furniture and art. An old mirror with a fresh coat of paint on the frame can rejuvenate a room, as can a recovered sofa or a reclaimed desk. Upcycling and recycling are very effective ways to decorate on a budget. They also allow you to really personalise your furniture. If you don't fancy heading to a reclamation yard, visit your local vintage stores and even car-boot sales or online shops like Ebay or Amazon to find unique pieces that just need a little love to bring them back to life.

### Consider the space

Think about the space available in your new home. If you're in a smaller apartment don't overcrowd it with clutter. Instead, consider items of furniture that will include storage within them, such as storage beds, great for storing linen and winter coats. Or try clever wall storage combinations that allow you to both display your accessories and store items, such as files and documents.

You may also wish to consider a storage coffee table or ottoman in your living room, which will double up as both somewhere to put your feet and to store magazines or remote controls. Ottomans are easily able to convert into a coffee table when a tray is placed on top, and of course function as additional seating if need be.

### Measure, measure, measure

Regardless of which items you select, measure the space, measure it again, and once more for luck, as items of furniture may look smaller or bigger in the show rooms. It's also important to consider how you'll need to get your new furniture into the room, whether it's through the doorways, along passages or up stairs. You don't want to have to sell something you've just bought because it isn't possible to get it into your new home.

### Shop around

When purchasing items for your home, be sure to shop around. This may sound obvious, but the more you look, the greater your understanding will be of what is out there. This will hopefully enable you to make a more informed decision when you do purchase something to your liking, knowing you have considered all your options. Don't disregard any shopping methods, whether it's on the high street, an industrial site or purely online, as there is more than one way to find a bargain.

### Have a plan

Very importantly, decide exactly what it is that you want to spend money on before you begin purchasing, and be strict with yourself. Start with the necessities such as a sofa, bed, wardrobe, dining table and chairs. Once you've got these pieces, take your time to live in the space. Build up your interior layer by layer to create something that reflects your own personal style.

Our final tip would be to consider repainting your walls to give your rooms a lift and create an inviting space.